The Middlebury Campus

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Chemistry Test Question Invokes Nazi Gas Chambers

Controversy ensues after The Noodle makes it public

By SARAH ASCH
Editor-at-Large

A question posed on a chemistry midterm last month asked students to calculate "a lethal dose" of the gas "Nazi Germany used to horrific ends in the gas chambers during The Holocaust." The test question was brought to public attention last Friday through an article in the student-run satirical newspaper The Local Noodle. The test question has garnered widespread condemnation while The Noodle's article has sparked controversy over the use of satire to respond to such incidents.

Chemistry Professor Jeff Byers, who has taught at Middlebury since 1986, posed the question in early March. Several students reported it to the administration the week before spring break. According to Dean of Faculty Andi Lloyd, the administration responded immediately by reaching out to Byers.

"My reaction was that the question was completely inappropriate and deeply problematic, and that follow-up was needed," Lloyd said. "We've been focusing on the situation within the class itself, and that culminated in an apology to the class by Professor Byers last week."

In an email to The Campus, Byers said he would not comment further on the incident, which he called an "unfortunate error on my part."

Several students in the class said they were disturbed by the way the question was framed. One Jewish first-year, who asked to remain anonymous, said that the question was distressing to read, especially in the middle of a test.

"I was pretty rattled when I saw the question, as the Holocaust is not something to make light of, especially since I am Jewish and the problem involved us calculating how much poisonous gas you would need to kill people in a room," she said.

Most students outside of the class did not know about the incident until The Noodle's article was published online on April 5. The article, which circulated widely on social media, prompted the Community Bias Response Team (CBRT) — a group that responds to bias incidents involving students on campus — to send an all-school email on Sunday, April 7.

In its email, the CBRT condemned the test question, stating, "The use of this exam question failed to provide any critical engagement with the historical contexts and atrocities of the Holocaust. It asked students to engage in problem solving that mirrors calculations used to implement

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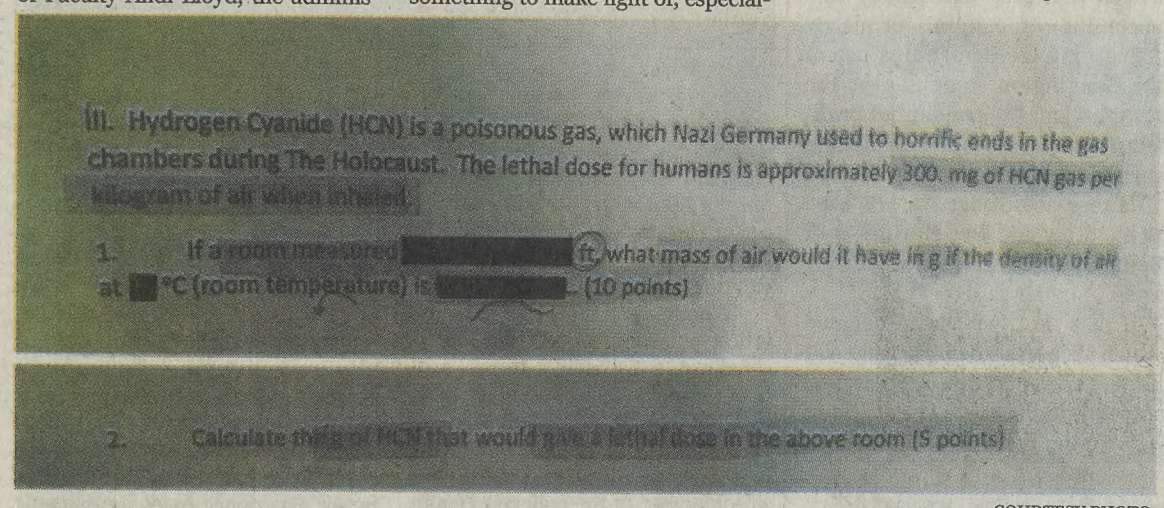
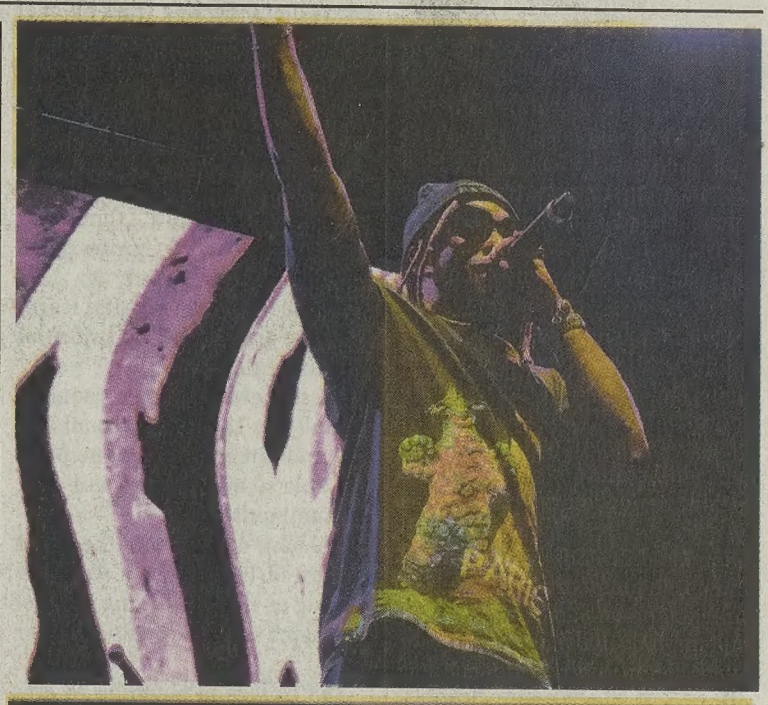

(II. Hydrogen Cyanide (HCN) is a poisonous gas, which Nazi Germany used to horrific ends in the gas chambers during The Holocaust. The lethal dose for humans is approximately 300. mg of HCN gas per kilogram of air when inhaled.
1. If a room measured [redacted] ft, what mass of air would it have in g if the density of air at [redacted] °C (room temperature) is [redacted]. (10 points)
2. Calculate the g of HCN that would give a lethal dose in the above room (5 points)

COURTESY PHOTO

One student said she was "rattled" when she saw the question during her Chemistry 103 midterm.



JOHN SCHURER/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

MCAB Spring Concert Ty Dolla $ign performed hits like "Swalla" and "Toot It and Boot It" for a high-energy audience this past Saturday night in Kenyon Arena, at times bringing his dog Cleo on stage with him.

HEBREW PROGRAM WILL LOSE ITS ONLY PROFESSOR IN FALL

By RILEY BOARD
Arts & Academics Editor

Following the departure of its only full-time professor, next year, the college's Hebrew program will no longer offer upper-level Hebrew classes on campus and will instead require students to video conference into Middlebury-devised courses at other colleges. These changes have raised concerns about the program's future among students who see it is as an invaluable focal point of both academic learning and Jewish life on campus.

The program's current professor, Oz Aloni, will leave the college when his contract expires after this semester. In the last year, Hebrew Program Head Tamar Mayer — who teaches only geography at Middlebury — requested twice that a new Hebrew professor be hired.Mayer's requests were denied both times.

According to Vice President for Academic Affairs Andrea Lloyd, the college denied Mayer's request because the Hebrew program continually sustains a very low level of enrollment in its classes. Since 2013-14, there has been an average of three students per semester enrolled in one of the introductory Hebrew courses, which are offered in a three-course sequence.

Additionally, the college must maintain an equilibrium of 248 full-time equivalent (FTE) professors across departments at all times, and must decide each semester which new hire requests to approve to keep that number constant. Enrollment level is one of the factors that the Educational Affairs Committee considers when approving new hire requests.

Board members from Hillel, the college's Jewish student life organization, voiced fear in a March 21 op-ed in The Campus that reductions in the program will ultimately result in the end of the Hebrew program entirely. The op-ed, entitled "We Need the Hebrew Department," encouraged

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COURTESY PHOTO

Prospective students were notified of their acceptance on March 23.

MIDDLEBURY ADMITS CLASS OF 2023, FIRST CLASS BORN IN 21ST CENTURY

By BECCA AMEN
Contributing Writer

The college offered admission to 1,175 regular decision applicants, it announced on March 23, bringing the overall acceptance rate for this admissions cycle to 15.8 %. Prospective students were chosen from a pool of 9,750 applications, the largest in the college's history.

This year's rate is the lowest in several years' — last year saw a rate of 18.4% and the year before saw a rate of 19.7% — but Dean of Admissions Greg Buckles noted that the rate may rise a percentage point after May 1, when the school accepts students off the waitlist.

With recruitment efforts broadening, those accepted to the Middlebury Class of 2023 represent all 50 states and Washington, D.C., as well as 82 countries. Recently, the Admissions Office has made an effort to recruit students from Florida and other Southern states. These efforts have yielded results; Florida is among the top five states for most students admitted in this cycle.

"Simply stated, that's where the people are," Buckles said when asked about the college's efforts to admit more students from the South. He noted that the number of high school graduates in the Northeast and mid-Atlantic is declining, a change which could have significant ramifications for a school like Middlebury that draws heavily from these regions.

"Most of the demographic growth in the U.S. is coming in

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Public Radio Host to Speak at Graduation

By EMMA PATCH
Editor-at-Large

Krista Tippett, creator and host of the national public radio program and podcast "On Being," will deliver the college's commencement address on Sunday, May 26. On her show, she explores broad cultural and spiritual questions about what it means to be human. Her wide range of guests have included Desmond Tutu, Yo-Yo Ma, Mary Oliver, Teju Cole and Maya Angelou.

Tippett was chosen to speak by a committee of two students, two faculty and an administrator. In anticipation of her upcoming speech, Tippett shared messages directed at the Middlebury community in an email to The Campus.

"We live in this moment of cultural upheaval in which we know what's broken, but we can't yet see what the new forms will be, the new realities we want to inhabit," she said. "Creating those is work for generational time. It's important right now to take a long, reality-based view of time, which doesn't come naturally in your 20s."

Tippett also noted the importance of knowing how to celebrate and take joy wherever and whenever you can find it. "Practice letting those two impulses nurture each other," she said, adding that she'll speak more about this on commencement day.

Tippet said she will be honored to be there in a moment of celebration and passage. "I'm looking forward to being on the Middlebury campus for the first time in a long time, and will hope for some conversation around the edges of festivities with students and faculty," she said.

Middlebury will also award honorary degrees at this year's commencement ceremony. One will be awarded to Jane Mayer, bestselling author and the chief Washington correspondent for the

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MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Pond Skim The Middlebury Ski Club held a Pond Skim this past Saturday, April 6 at the Snow Bowl to fundraise for the club. Skiiers flew down Allen and over — and into — a pond of water, many in silly costumes, as spectators looked on and enjoyed music and food from local vendors. See middleburycampus.com for more photos.

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Three Middlebury Language Schools to Move from California to Vermont

By GIGI HOGAN
Staff Writer

Middlebury will welcome all of its language schools back to Vermont next summer. Beginning with the 2020 summer session, Bennington College will host the three schools that are currently held in Oakland, Calif., joining the eight schools that are already held on the Middlebury campus.

President Laurie L. Patton and Bennington College President Mariko Silver announced the agreement last Wednesday on the Bennington campus.

"Middlebury and Bennington really are sister institutions and this is a great opportunity for higher-ed in Vermont," Silver said at the signing event. "What we want here truly is a partnership. It is not a transactional relationship."

Dean of Language Schools Steve Snyder said that the college selected Bennington, after surveying many Vermont institutions, for its excellent facilities, isolated environment and its goals and values, which align with those of Middlebury.

Bennington granted language schools exclusive use of its campus during the summer session. This is critical, as it provides an environment free from "language pollution," and allows students to deeply engage with the curriculum and language pledge.

Middlebury's language schools currently offer 11 programs, three of which have been housed in Oakland at Mills College for the last decade. The language schools educate about 1,500 students each summer, ranging in age from 17 to 70 and coming from all over the world.

Snyder said the directors of each school came together to identify some new goals during a recent strategic planning process as part of the"Envisioning Middlebury" framework. Curricular innovation, faculty professional development, research in language pedagogy and digital learning were among the top priorities they identified.

These new objectives required that all the Language School faculty and directors be in one place and able to meet before and after the summer session.

"To have one-third of the faculty located in California was preventing us from achieving some of our major strategic goals," Snyder said.

The college is planning to create time at the beginning of the summer to bring in experts from around the world to hold a workshop for faculty professional development and curricular innovation.

The expansion to California in 2009 was an effort to accommodate a growing population of Language School students in Middlebury, and in recent years about 300 students each summer have studied Arabic, Italian and Korean at Mills. The schools also hoped that students at the Monterey Institute would enroll in the provided language courses, though the idea didn't catch on in the way they anticipated.

"In the end it was a very marginal number of students (from the Institute) that actually attended the Language Schools."

Snyder praised Mills as a wonderful institutional partner, even as they have experienced challenges of their own in recent years. The increasing number of English-speaking summer programs on their campus, combined with the operational difficulty of travel between the two locations, were some of the factors in the decision to relocate the schools to Vermont.

This new proximity will allow a cooperative and interconnected relationship between Bennington and Middlebury, as first demonstrated in the co-signing ceremony attended by the colleges' presidents.

"We are hoping to create a broad relationship where the faculty exchanges, where Bennington students are able to attend the Language Schools more easily and we begin to think about various areas where we can cooperate across the institution," Snyder said.

Snyder foresees only a few challenges that may accompany this upcoming transition, primarily concerning the demanding use of the Bennington campus over the summer and the residential problems that often arise when hosting such a diverse group of students.

"These are things we are used to handling and we will work with Bennington to manage what may arise," Snyder said.

It has not yet been decided which schools Bennington will host. The remaining schools will stay at Middlebury.

College Tuition to Increase by 3.25%

By ROSE EVANS
Contributing Writer

Amid efforts from the college to decrease its deficit in the coming years, the Middlebury Board of Trustees announced at the end of last month that it will raise undergraduate tuition and room and board costs for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Cost of attendance will increase 3.25%, or $2,261, resulting in a total price of $71,822: $55,790 for tuition and $16,032 for room and board.

Tuition increases are recommended by the administration and approved by the trustees to minimize the current budget deficit, based on Middlebury's operating costs.

In a college news release on March 25, Middlebury President Laurie L. Patton cited Middlebury's commitment to financial aid and a low faculty-student ratio as priorities for determining tuition prices.

"It is critical that we maintain the quality of the student experience as well as our commitment to making Middlebury accessible to a diverse group of talented and bright students," she said.

The administration also factors into its decision the national inflation rate. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the inflation rate is currently around 1.5%. The change in tuition cannot be wholly attributed to inflation. This year's tuition increase was 1.75% greater than the inflation rate.

At the start of the decade, Middlebury announced a commitment to limiting tuition increases to 1% over inflation as indicated by the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The once-commended program, known informally as "CPI + 1," was scrapped in April 2015 following rising budget deficits.

David Provost, Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration & Treasurer, attributed Middlebury's current financial instability to the disproportionately high increases in college expenses in recent years, compared to the relatively low increases in revenue that the college took in while the CPI + 1 policy was in effect.

The college was subsequently forced to raise tuition prices significantly, at times by nearly 5%, but the rates of change have stabilized in recent years. "The Board and President Patton are committed to financial sustainability," Provost said in an interview with The Campus.

Provost said that the budget for fiscal year 2020 will be the break even point for the deficit, a year earlier than the school had predicted.

Middlebury's current costs are similar to those of its NESCAC peers, and the average cost of attending a NESCAC school in the 2018-2019 academic year is $69,877, compared to $69,561 at Middlebury. These costs are rising across the NESCAC. At Wesleyan, costs will increase 4.38% to $73,833 for the 2019-2020 academic year. Williams will raise its costs by 3.32% to $72,270 in the coming academic year.

Provost predicted that in the next three to five years, tuition increases will remain in the 3% range.

Provost attributed the continual rise in tuition rates to both the rise in service costs and the addition of new services. "Middlebury College is a different place than it was 20 years ago" he said, "there are more services that we need to provide and that comes at a cost."

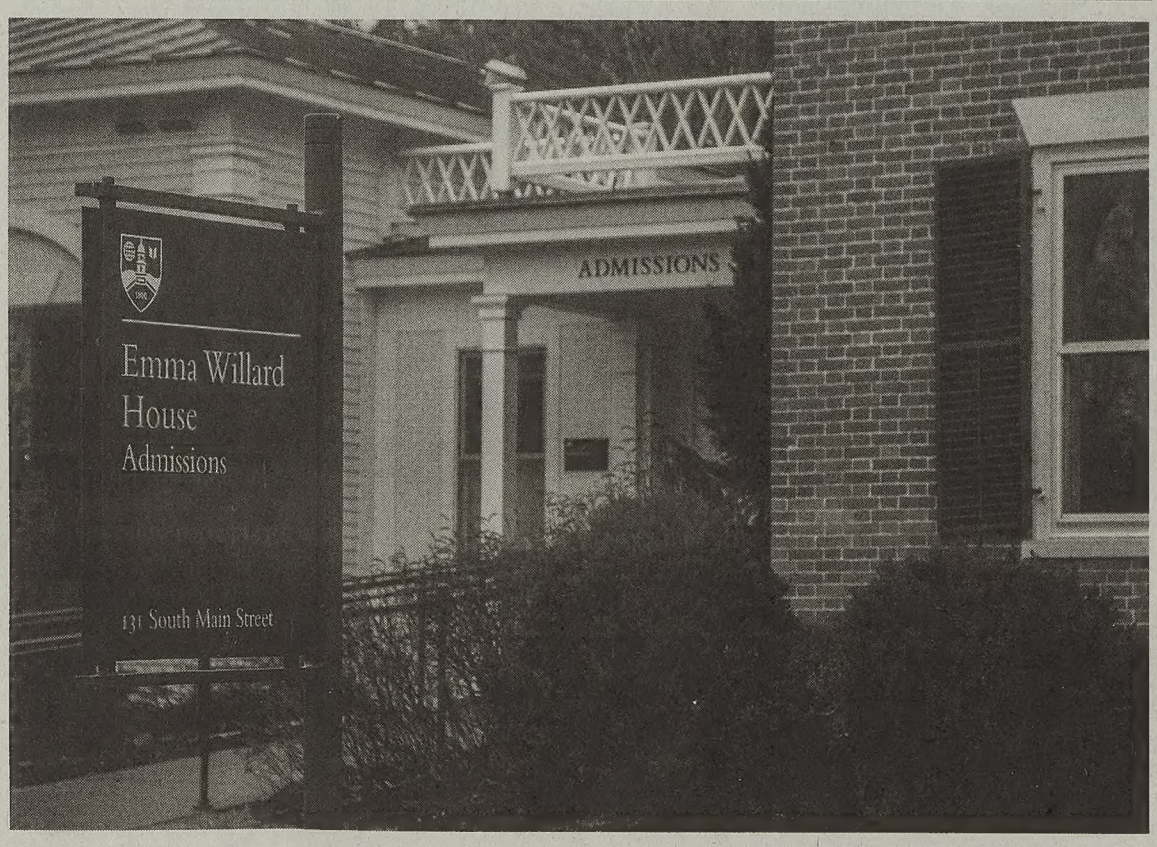
Despite concerns about increasing costs and their impact on affordability, Middlebury points to its financial aid program, which services over 45% of the student body, to reassure students that their financial needs will continue to be met. Middlebury will remain need-blind in the application process and meet 100% of demonstrated need of admitted students, unlike some of its NESCAC companions Bates, Connecticut College and Colby. Middlebury also predicts a 9% increase in financial aid for the 2019-2020 academic year.

"We will address (tuition increases) by giving more aid to the most needy students" Provost said. Even with rises in tuition, student debt has remained stable over the last five years. The average student debt for graduating seniors in May 2018 was $14,874.

The college's budget deficit has also prompted the college to cut staff costs through buyouts, and reduce faculty by offering incentive retirement packages.

Provost hopes that tuition does not increase dramatically, but he does not expect it to stop rising in the coming years.

"There is a day in the foreseeable future that it will hit $100,000," he said.



MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

The most admits from the class of 2023 hail from California, followed by New York and Massachusetts.

Noodle in Hot Water After Satirizing Test Question

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systematic genocide. Our students should never have been put in this position."

The email also criticized The Local Noodle article. "We are aware that The Local Noodle published a satirical article about this incident," the email read. "While satire can be an effective form of social critique, the article's light handed references to and engagement with the Holocaust have caused additional harm."

According to Renee Wells, the director of education for equity and inclusion and a member of the CBRT, the team was not planning to send out an email until The Local Noodle article elicited a campus-wide reaction to both the test question and the satire piece.

"The incident occurred in a class, so the impact was on the students in the class. Thus, the focus of the response in this situation was to work to ensure the faculty member understood the harm done and addressed it with his students," she said. "When we began receiving emails about the Noodle article and its impact, we realized that the scope of the incident had expanded to the entire campus community, so we sent out a campus-wide email."

The CBRT did not reach out to members of The Local Noodle before the email was sent.

Some students and faculty expressed concern that the email equated the Noodle article with the original test question, including Maggie Clinton, an associate professor of History and a member of the Faculty for an Inclusive Middlebury working group.

"Whether one found the Noodle's article humorous or not, and I personally didn't, student satire is hardly the same as exam questions given by a professor with a powerful gatekeeping role," Clinton said, referring to Byers's additional responsibilities as a member of the college's Health Professions Committee, which evaluates students' medical school applications.

"It's unfortunate that the CBRT didn't acknowledge either the power differential or the political difference between highly unethical and frankly horrifying exam questions, and a satirical response intended to criticize the posing of such questions in the first place," Clinton said.

In a statement to The Campus, the staff of The Local Noodle wrote that the response from CBRT felt more like a public relations decision than an attempt to engage the issue. They also took issue with the fact that nobody from the CBRT contacted them in advance of the email.

"To denounce a satirical publication in a schoolwide email like this is a form of public shaming designed to close off a complex and sensitive issue to any meaningful discussion, which is what would actually be productive," they said. "If administrative bodies can publicly shame student publications who bring to light things they've kept quiet, that sets a dangerous precedent for our campus."

The Local Noodle responded to the email in a second story titled "Community Bias Response Team Gets Mad at Noodle For Making Them Do Their Job."

Although The Local Noodle staff feel the CBRT mishandled the situation, many students found The Noodle's piece offensive. There has been active debate about the article in comments sections on Facebook, and several students have posted in the "Middlebury Memes for Crunchy Teens" Facebook page, both defending and criticizing The Noodle's article and the CBRT's response.

At the Student Government Association (SGA) meeting on Sunday night, senators discussed the possibility of pulling The Noodle's funding next year, as well as the possibility of requiring the editors of all student publications to participate in mandatory bias training. As of press time, no official action has been taken on either front.

Senior Senator Travis Sanderson '19 said that while he took issue with the article, he does not support revoking the club's funding.

"The Noodle is a satirical magazine attempting to do its job," he said. "It is The Noodle's right to engage in the type of humor that relies on trivializations of seriously traumatic and genocidal terms, like 'the final solution,' but I am nonetheless disturbed by The Noodle's apparent total lack of empathy for the legitimate concern about such jokes' effect on community members."

Talia Raisel, a Jewish first-year, was among those who found the Noodle piece hurtful. While she felt the original test question was "in bad taste," her bigger concern was the headline of the Noodle article, which joked that the professor was "a real Nazi" about grading.

"Calling people Nazis who aren't literal Nazis has really trivialized the term," she said. "Satire can be wonderful and effective when used properly, but there's still a line where satire loses its efficacy and just becomes a series of inappropriate puns, and I feel that this line has been majorly crossed."

Jenny Moss '20.5, the co-president of Middlebury Hillel, said that she was not offended by the Noodle article. Rather, she appreciated the way the piece highlighted the issue of bias and anti-Semitism in academic spaces and the lack of response from the school. She also feels the school should have addressed this issue publicly earlier, especially because in her experience many Jewish students heard about the incident before break.

"If I were to have written the Noodle article, I think that I might have dialed the rhetoric back and focussed more on the lack of apology from the teacher and the school," she said.

In the wake of the controversy, Moss also invited students, faculty and staff to participate in upcoming events for Yom Hashoah, the Jewish day of Holocaust remembrance, to learn more about the history of oppression within the Jewish community. The events will take place in late April and early May.

Looking forward, the CBRT email noted that this event has highlighted the need for more training for faculty and staff to promote inclusivity in the classroom.

According to Wells, she will pilot this program starting in the fall and will offer workshops and facilitated dialogues to faculty and staff on a variety of topics.

"The program will provide a framework for faculty and staff to access resources, engage in critical conversations, practice inclusive strategies, and be part of a community working to integrate what they learn in the context of their everyday work," she said. "It is important to create space to engage in open and honest conversations about our campus climate and to be thoughtful and intentional about ways we can make Middlebury a community that everyone feels included in and wants to be a part of."

Wells invited faculty and staff to reach out if there are specific areas they would like to see addressed in the program.

Admissions Steps Up Recruit Efforts in South and West

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the southern and western states. While we've had a solid presence in the West for some time now, we've not had the same presence in the South."

Efforts to expand Middlebury's reach has come in multiple forms. School visits, partnerships with community-based organizations, and connections with local alumni are some ways in which Middlebury recruits students in new areas. This focus becomes especially important as the number of high school graduates in the Northeast and mid-Atlantic decreases.

Middlebury takes a personalized approach to admissions outreach. Michelle Nelson, an admissions counselor responsible for managing recruitment efforts in Florida, recently reached out to current students who hail from that state. She attempts to connect prospective students from Florida with those who currently attend Middlebury.

College admissions was a hot topic in the news this year, following the scandal that resulted in the prosecution of 16 wealthy families earlier this week. Buckles said that the scandal did not influence the college's admission process, since the story broke after the committee had already made its decisions, but said that it did review its databases to guarantee integrity.

Buckles also noted that the Class of 2023 differs from other years in a unique way.

"This is one of the first classes where virtually all of the applicants will have been born in the 21st century, which is interesting to think about," he said. "They have no physical connection to the previous century, which is reflected in a number of ways: how they interact with each other and society at large, how they think about the future, their perspective on politics, diversity, inclusion and access."

The Office of Admissions is now turning its attention to Preview Days, which provide prospective students an opportunity to explore campus and partake in a variety of activities, all while acquainting them with students and faculty. Preview Days will be held April 15-17.

Bill McKibben Talks Lessons Learned

By NICOLE POLLACK
Senior Writer

The earth is not to be taken for granted.

Last Thursday evening in Wilson Hall, 30 years after publishing the seminal climate change volume "The End of Nature," Bill McKibben revisited the many lessons he has learned since the book's publication. That was the first one.

McKibben, known for his work as a journalist and environmental activist, founded the international climate change organization 350.org in 2008. In 2010, McKibben was named Middlebury's Schumann Distinguished Scholar. Since then he has regularly given talks on campus and appeared at college events, while continuing his work as an activist outside of Middlebury. During last week's talk, entitled "What I Learned in the Last Three Decades: A First Glimpse of My New Book," he shared eight lessons about the climate crisis and human nature along with excerpts from his newest book, "Falter: Has the Human Game Begun to Play Itself Out?"

The talk began with introductions by Professor of Economics Jon Isham, Dean of Environmental Affairs Nan Jenks-Jay, and College President Laurie L. Patton. Isham read a new poem written by the environmental poet Wendell Berry about McKibben, the first entry in a book of writings gathered from close colleagues and friends of McKibben's. Jenks-Jay presented McKibben with the book. Patton read her own entry, thanking McKibben, whom she called "the world's colleague and friend," for his many contributions to the college over the last 18 years.

WILL DIGRAVIO/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

McKibben spoke about his book at a talk in Wilson Hall.

About two months ago, Jenks-Jay suggested giving McKibben an award in recognition of the 30th anniversary of the publication of "The End of Nature," Isham told The Campus. This idea evolved into the book they presented to him at the talk, a collection of 39 contributions from people who have worked with him on the front lines of the fight against climate change.

Today's climate movement did not exist fifteen years ago, McKibben wrote in an email to The Campus. "Whether it's strong enough to match the fossil fuel industry I don't know," he wrote, "but it is very good to know that at least there will be a fight."

The second lesson McKibben learned is that some people actually do their jobs. The price of solar panels has fallen by 90 percent in the last decade, he said, thanks to the work of engineers — and the "ex-hippies" who spent their time "down in the basement fussing with the lead-acid batteries."

"The good story of the last thirty years is that we know, now, how we could solve a problem that in a certain way seemed insoluble in 1989," McKibben wrote. In 1989, there was no clear alternative to coal, gas and oil. Now, as solar power has become more affordable, there is.

His third lesson: it's possible to win the argument, but lose the fight. Despite winning the climate change argument, scientists lost the fight to the world's fossil fuel elites who had enough money and power to inhibit change. Oil companies knew all the basic facts of climate change by the 1980s, but their willingness to spread "the most consequential lie in human history" produced a 30-year debate about whether climate change was real at all.

For the fossil fuel companies, that lie remains a success. "The President of the United States believes that climate change was a hoax invented by the Chinese, an idea so odd that if you were sitting on the ACTR bus next to someone muttering this, you would get up and change seats," McKibben said.

After the release of "The End of Nature" in 1989, McKibben worked to grow the global climate movement and continued to write books. Just over a decade ago, he began dedicating more time to organizing, combating the massive amounts of money in the fossil fuel industry, moving away from book writing. But "Falter" felt necessary, especially considering how far McKibben has come since he wrote "The End of Nature."

"'The End of Nature' was a good book, but written by a young man," he wrote. "That has both advantages and disadvantages."

The fourth thing McKibben learned is that large numbers of people will gather and do the work they are asked to do, "if they're given a — even mildly plausible — reason to think it might be successful." He brought up the then-upcoming Climate Solutions Walk held last weekend, a five-day march from Middlebury to Montpelier. He described a similar march in 2006, during which protesters walked from the Robert Frost Cabin in Ripton to Burlington.

In 2006, when they reached Burlington, he said, they were greeted by then Congressman and senatorial candidate Bernie Sanders, who praised them enthusiastically for their activism. Sanders then asked, "What is this about, again?"

McKibben's primary takeaway from the 2006 march was that people respond better when they are asked to do more challenging things, because they are more likely to step up if they feel that their work means something. This is also seen in the unexpected global success 350.org saw in 2009, when they coordinated thousands of protests around the world on the same day.

In 2009, McKibben said, climate activism was an unfilled ecological niche. But while nobody focused primarily on climate change, many worried about closely related issues: women's rights, war and peace, development, public health, hunger, and "all the problems you couldn't address on a planet that was rapidly destabilizing."

Lesson five, he said, is that it is sometimes necessary to go beyond education and confront the problems. The Keystone Pipeline protests show, regardless of their outcome, that it is possible to stand up to big oil. Divestment of money invested in fossil fuels has also been more successful than McKibben ever anticipated, with coal and oil companies now recognizing the financial losses as a serious threat.

The sixth lesson: "it's possible we may not win this fight."

Never take a snowstorm for granted, McKibben warned, because winter as it exists now will not last much longer. The evidence of climate-related losses is rapidly becoming ubiquitous. Coral reefs, "once the most enchanted corner of God's brain," he said, "are now just lobotomized and vacant." He played a video he had filmed of a glacier disintegrating into the sea.

The seventh lesson is a little bit more optimistic: to have any chance of "winning"— of slowing and limiting climate change enough for human civilization to survive—people will need to stretch well beyond their comfort zones. After all, he said, the planet is way outside its comfort zone. And what people have done so far is clearly insufficient.

McKibben cited two mechanisms which have been enhanced over the last 30 years and serve as reasons for hope. One is the solar panel. The other is the evolution of nonviolent resistance. Activism by pioneers like Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi serve as the foundation of the climate movement protests.

"You shouldn't have to go to jail to get people to listen to science," McKibben said. But it works.

His eighth and final lesson is that the world is so beautiful, and so remarkable, that all of this is worth a try. Earlier that day, he said, as his flight to Middlebury passed over the Adirondacks, he found himself captivated by the view. And yet, while watching a recent SpaceX launch, he realized that the richest people on earth just want to leave this planet behind.

Moving forward, the next ten years are likely to be the most critical, McKibben said. "Can we make a decisive transition away from fossil fuels in that period? If not, I think the prospects for catching up with the physics of climate change become vanishingly small."

"We are messy creatures, often selfish, prone to short-sightedness, susceptible to greed," McKibben said at the end of the talk. "In a Trumpian moment, with racism and nationalism resurgent, you could argue that our disappearance would be no great loss. And yet most of us, most of the time, are pretty wonderful. Funny. Kind. Another name for human solidarity is love. And when I think about our world in its present form, that is what overwhelms

Middlebury Will Award Five Honorary Degrees at Graduation

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"New Yorker," where she has been a staff writer since 1995.

"The fact that I will receive an honorary degree from Middlebury is especially meaningful to me because my career as a journalist began in Vermont, working on the state's smallest weekly newspaper, and because I am the proud parent of a Middlebury graduate, Kate Hamilton, who was a 2015 Feb," she wrote in an email.

In recent years, Mayer has written on topics ranging from money in politics and the U.S. Predator drone program to government prosecution of whistleblowers. She is the author of several books, including the bestselling "Dark Money," which examined the influence of conservative mega-donors including the Koch Brothers.

"My hope for the graduating class is that it won't just conquer the world, but that it will also fix it along the way," Mayer said. "There's no formula for a happy life, and no avoiding some setbacks and pitfalls, but in my experience, no amount of pay can compensate for work you don't love, and no amount of satisfaction is greater than feeling that you're making some kind of a difference."

Mayer also addressed Middlebury students with a call to defend the truth. "Tell the truth, whether about science, history, poetry or politics — these days its defenders are in way too short a supply!"

Michelle Mittelman will accept an honorary degree on behalf of her late husband, David R. Mittelman '76, a longtime college trustee and parent of three Middlebury graduates. Mittelman died in May 2017. He was passionate about astronomy, establishing the P. Frank Winkler Professorship in Physics at Middlebury, and providing financial support for the college's observatory and telescope.

Judith Heumann, a senior fellow of the Ford Foundation, lifelong advocate for the rights of people with disabilities and an internationally recognized civil rights leader will also receive an honorary degree. Previously holding positions such as first special advisor for international disability rights at the U.S. Department of State and in the Clinton administration, assistant secretary of the Office for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, she was instrumental in developing major disability rights legislation, including a section of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Donald W. Stevens, chief of the Nulhegan Band of Vermont's Coosuk-Abenaki Nation, is also one of the planned recipients of an honorary degree. He is a respected Abenaki leader in Vermont who has been instrumental in raising awareness of the rich Abenaki heritage as well as securing legal recognition for the Abenaki people and their lands. Stevens also has more than 27 years of experience developing information technology, logistics, and manufacturing strategies for multimillion-dollar companies, is a U.S. Army Veteran and served two terms on the Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs, the second as chair.

The degree bears both personal and cultural significance, Stevens told The Campus. "Neither of my parents were able to graduate high school because they had to work to support the family and help feed their siblings. My sisters were able to graduate high school but I am the only one in the family that was able to go to college and complete my degree after I completed my Military Service," he said.

Stevens also addressed Middlebury students directly. "Stay in touch with what made you who you are and this beautiful planet of ours. It is the only one we have and must be looked after for future generations," he said.

The Middlebury College Commencement ceremony will take place on the main quadrangle at 10 a.m. on Sunday, May 26. More than 5,000 family members and friends are expected to attend.

When asked what kind of audience Krista Tippett expects Middlebury to be, she responded, "Exuberant and eclectic and also pragmatic — a good combination."

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

This winter was the scholarship program's pilot season.

Snow Bowl Will Continue Ski School Scholarship Program Next Year

By HANNAH BENSEN
Staff Writer

Thanks to a $20,000 fund, the Ski and Snowboard Scholarship pilot program that brought 103 new skiers up to the Snow Bowl this Winter Term will continue into future seasons. The fund, compiled by Student Affairs and the Dean of Students, helps students dodge the steep costs of winter sports by providing each participant with five ski, snowboard or telemark lessons and equipment rentals at the Bowl.

This past Tuesday, Vice President of Student Affairs Baishakhi Taylor met with students, college administrators and Daphne Diego, administrative director of the Middlebury Snow School, to discuss the future of the scholarships. Based on positive feedback from the pilot program, they secured funding so that the subsidized lessons can be offered in years to come.

Chief Diversity Officer Miguel Fernández will allocate an additional $1,600 to help cover extra ACTR buses to the Bowl on busy days.

This year, the scholarships helped boost involvement in the ski and snowboard lessons. In total, a record-breaking 201 students participated in ski or snowboard lessons over Winter Term this year, nearly half of whom were part of the scholarship program.

"Skiing is expensive, and we are welcoming students from all over the world, all over the country, where skiing is not something you will have natural access to, in terms of geography," Taylor said. "So how do we make that something that is available to everyone if they want to try it? And I think that was the philosophy, was that if a student is interested, we have this amazing opportunity and facility. We want students participating in the full Middlebury experience."

Sabian Edouard '21 and Rodney Adams '21 both took part in the scholarship program over Winter Term. Edouard chose to take snowboarding lessons and Adams opted for ski lessons. Both students felt that the scholarships made skiing and snowboarding more accessible.

Edouard's snowboarding skills drastically improved and he was asked to become a snowboarding instructor next season.

"Where we come from, we don't have these sort of experiences," said Edouard, a Chicago native. "But also, when you get to Middlebury, especially as a first-generation student, a lot of the kids have this familial tie (with skiing and snowboarding) and leisurely activities that might not be as prominent in another environment. So being a part of that experience made me feel closer to being a Middlebury student.

"There's been a stigmatization surrounding the POC and snowboarding at this campus, and I think that the scholarship is a great way to bridge that gap," he added.

Adams, who is the first person in his family to learn how to ski, said that learning the sport made him feel more comfortable going to the ski races during Winter Carnival and talking with his fellow students about skiing.

"[The Snow Bowl] is a whole different social environment," Adams said. "It's another part of campus that we socialize at. Skiing is another way we can be active, especially during the winter when you can't do anything else, so you might as well ski or snowboard."

In a sport that has historically been dominated by affluent white people, the scholarship is an important step the college has taken to ensure that skiing and snowboarding is available to all Middlebury students. Skiing is ingrained in campus culture through traditions like Winter Carnival and Feb graduation, during which February graduates ski or ride down the Bowl in celebration.

In addition, skiing and snowboarding have their own languages and vocabularies that may not be familiar to non-skiers. A skier may "carve" (make turns with your edges) down "fresh corduroy" (a run that is freshly groomed) before heading into the ski lodge for "apres-ski" (the socializing that occurs after a long day on the mountain).

Jacob Freedman '21 and Alex Gemme '21, who were in attendance at Tuesday's meeting, played instrumental roles in creating the scholarship program. They initially acquired around $5,500 dollars this past Fall, pulling funds from the Student Government Association, the Seizing Opportunities fund, the Mountain Club, Wonnacott, Brainerd, Ross, and Cook commons and the Intercommons Council. When the demand for scholarships quickly surpassed the available funds, the administration agreed to cover all remaining need, contributing an additional $15,000. This allowed every student on financial aid who applied for a snow scholarship to receive one.

Students enrolled in the scholarship program filled out surveys after completing their lessons asking them to rate and comment on various aspects of the program. The survey revealed overwhelmingly positive feedback, with 100% of 24 respondents rating 5 out of 5 point scale to the question, "Was this scholarship beneficial to your Middlebury and Winter-term experience?"

100% of respondents marked yes to the question, "Do you want this scholarship to be offered again?" and 97.8% of 46 respondents said yes to the question, "Were your fears and concerns (of skiing or snowboarding) addressed by Winter-term lessons?"

Survey respondents, all of whom remained anonymous, left comments giving feedback on the program.

"Being a kid from Chicago, I never thought I would get the opportunity to come to a place like Middlebury and be able to enjoy a sport like skiing," one survey respondent wrote. "The Snow Scholarship was a significant part of my J-Term experience.....Without the funds provided by the scholarship, I would have never been able to ski since it is such a costly sport."

Participants were also asked about their favorite part of Winter-Term lessons. Many respondents commented on how fast they improved and "learning how to ski in a comfortable environment."

Other participants enjoyed meeting new people and learning from the snow school instructors. Most instructors are Middlebury students, but some are adults with decades of teaching experience at the Bowl. One survey respondent indicated a positive experience with the teaching method used by ski instructors.

"It started slow and progressed once I was ready for the next step," wrote the respondent. "I also really enjoyed having peers at almost all the lessons, but really appreciated the help of the 'older' folks. I think it was great to learn from someone my age, and also from someone that has been skiing for 30+ years. (It) made me feel much more comfortable in a situation where I was nervous and afraid."

The participants were also asked for suggestions to improve the lessons and the scholarship program in the future. Some common recommendations were to have more instructors and lesson times, to better place skiers within a group of their ability level, to inform students of injury risk and to be more organized. Other students suggested making the program more widely publicized.

In response to student feedback, Gemme and Freedman are planning to streamline the sign-up process for the scholarships applications. They are also working on establishing a check-out system for borrowing snow pants and gloves.

One respondent felt that, while their ski skills improved during the 5 lessons, they will not be able to continue skiing in the future due to the high cost of the sport.

"I was glad that the scholarship was offered. As someone that is low-income, I would never have been able to afford any kind of ski lessons or rentals" she said. "I now know how to ski, but because of the high cost associated with rentals and lift tickets it is very unlikely that I will be skiing again this ski season. I cannot express how thankful I am for the opportunity to have been able to learn to ski."

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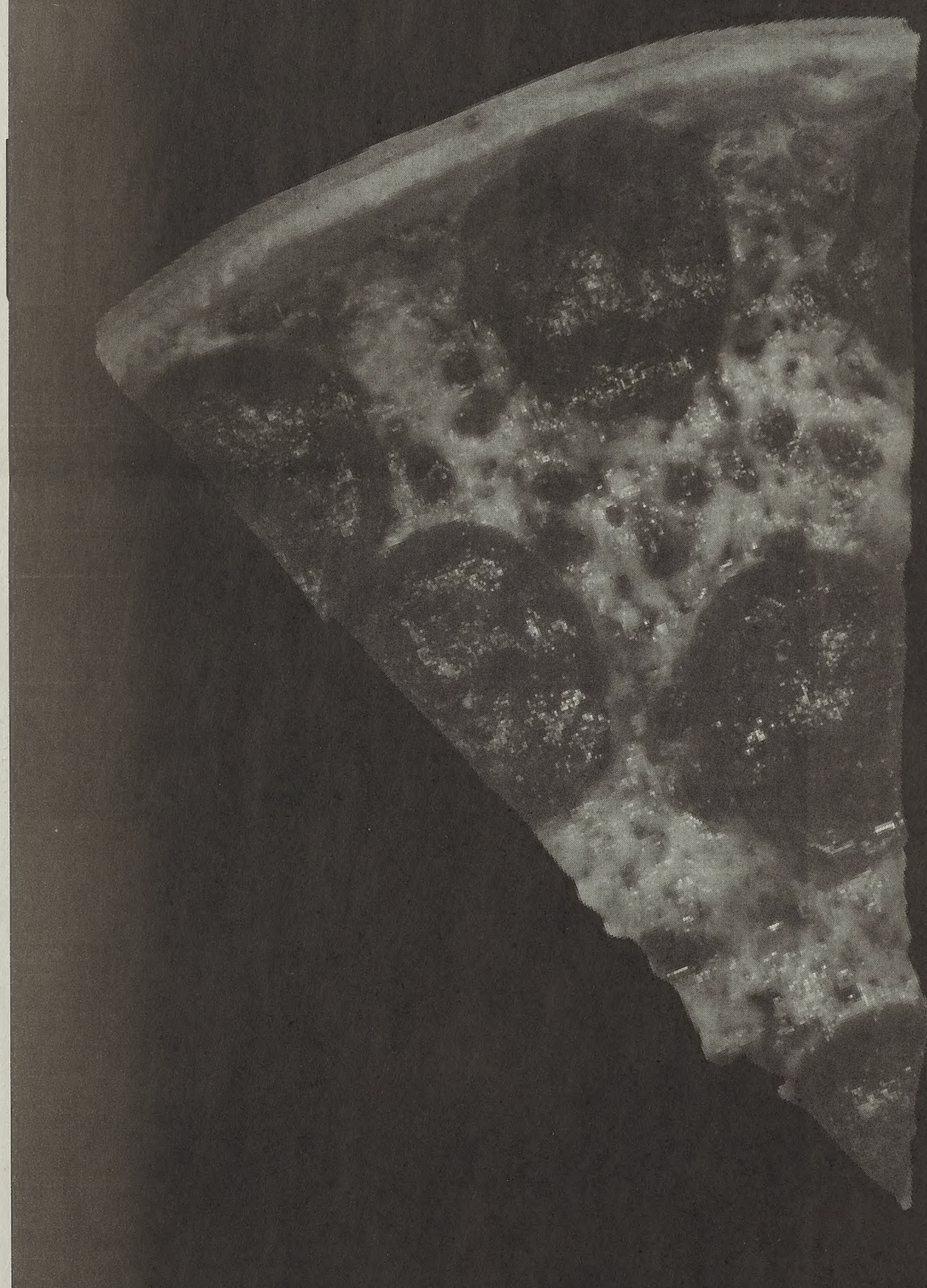

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Behind the Scenes with DOLCI

Student chefs serve up gourmet, "guilty pleasure" eats in Atwater Dining.

Photos by Michael Borenstein

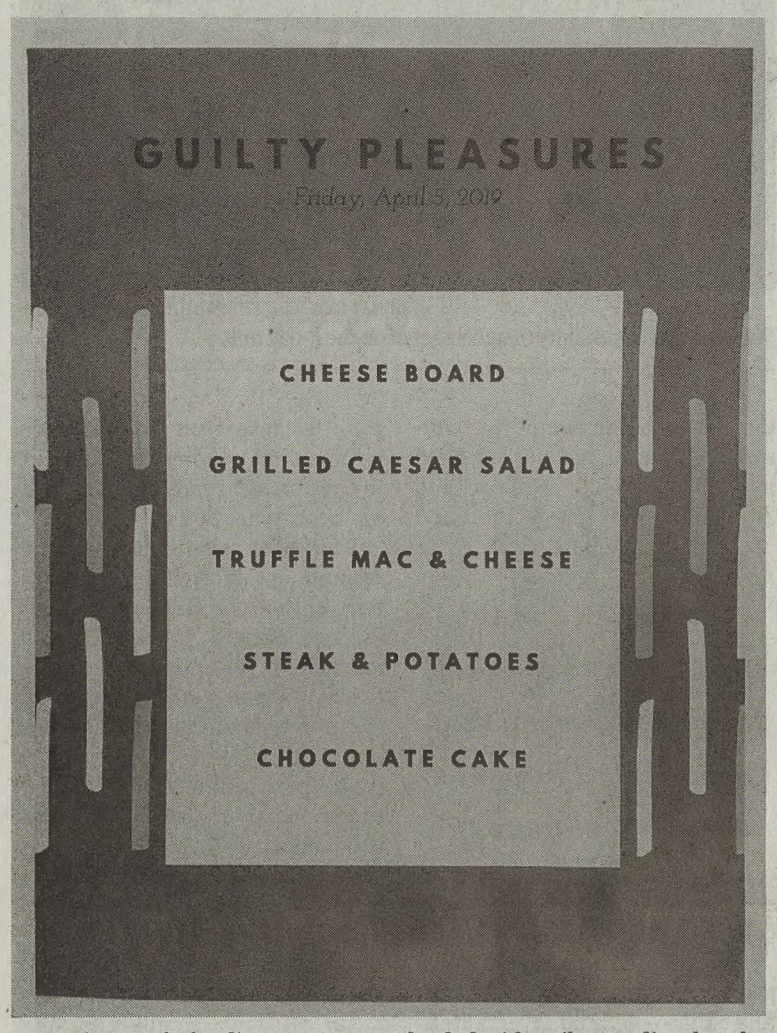
Grace Stimson '19 (left) and Hannah Seabury '19, Friday's head Dolci chefs, brought the "Guilty Pleasures" dinner to life. "This is pretty much our dream meal," Seabury said.

By RILEY BOARD
Arts & Academics Editor

It's 3 p.m. on a Friday afternoon and seniors Grace Stimson and Hannah Seabury are hard at work in the kitchen. They've been here all week, prepping and planning a dinner entitled "Guilty Pleasures" — the menu boasts truffle mac 'n' cheese, steak and potatoes, and chocolate cake — for 40 lucky Middlebury students and their guests.

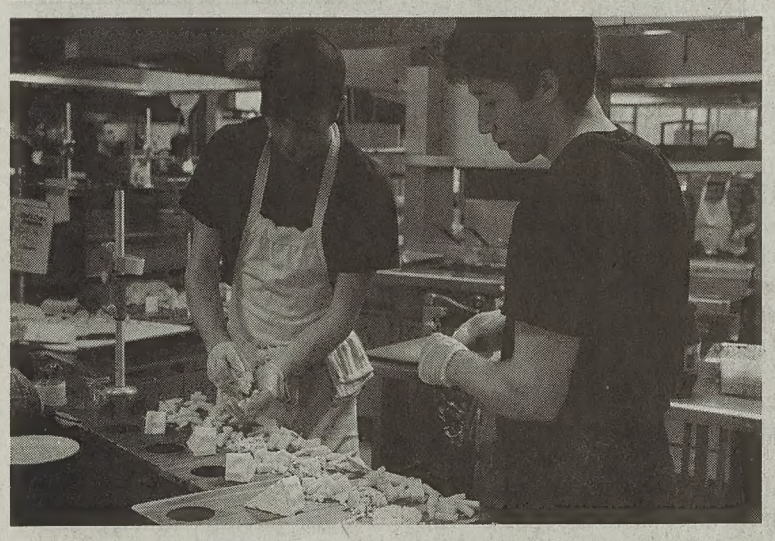
This isn't a gourmet restaurant (although, in a way, it is). The student chefs are actually in the kitchen of Atwater Dining Hall, working with a staff of students and Atwater employees to bring Middlebury a night of fine dining for free, right on campus.

Dolci, a student-run restaurant based out of Atwater Dining Hall, has been operating at Middlebury for over 20 years, beginning in 1998. The organization, funded by Middlebury Dining Services and by the Student Activities Board, allows students to plan multi-course meals, order ingredients, prep, cook, make stylistic decisions, plate and serve for a randomly selected group of 40 students and their guests on five Fridays a semester and two Fridays in winter term.



From tip to tail, the dinner menu was loaded with guilty goodies that the chefs prepared over the course of the week.

Each dinner follows a distinctive theme and is arranged and directed by a student head chef, or a group of head chefs, who apply at the start of the semester to design a dinner. The wait staff and prep cooks are all students employed temporarily and directed by the Dolci Board.



A guilty pleasures dinner would not be complete without cheese.

On the Wednesday before a Dolci meal, students can submit their interest in attending, and are then randomly chosen to be treated to a free gourmet meal, to which they can bring one guest. Most weeks, the board receives over 100 applications in the first 10 or 20 minutes that the sign-up link goes live.

Dolci is managed by a team of board members, which currently includes president Sarah Yang '19.5, kitchen managers Nora Peachin '21 and Charlie DiPrinzio '21, and head of wait staff Van Lundsgaard '21. Each week that a dinner is hosted, they oversee several hired prep cooks — a mix of new workers, previously hired cooks and friends of the chefs — as well as a wait staff of three to five students and the head chefs of the meal. All of the students are assisted by Atwater dining staff.

So far this semester, Dolci dinners have included a New Orleans-themed meal, the Tastes of Spain, and last Friday's dinner, an indulgent exploration of rich American foods and flavors.

Guilty Pleasures

The journey to Guilty Pleasures began three months ago when the chefs, both seniors, decided to "indulge in food" for their Dolci lineup.

"We tossed around a couple of ideas, starting with 'Seven Deadly Sins,' which lead to gluttony, which lead to the guilty pleasure idea," Stimson explained. "We talked to friends about what food they think of when they think guilty pleasure."

Rather than simply preparing rich foods, the chefs wanted to introduce combinations of uncommon flavors, like macaroni and cheese prepared with truffle oil. For the past month, Stimson and Seabury have focused on planning: figuring out their menu, finding recipes, deciding on ingredients and creating options for students with dietary restrictions. They met with the Atwater Commons chef manager Ian Martin to discuss the feasibility of their meal and decide on ingredients. As Seabury noted, "this is kind of our dream meal."

Over the course of last week, a lot of Stimson and Seabury's preparation for their Friday dinner was informed by their experiences hosting a fall favorites-themed Dolci last semester, which ended up being a hectic and stressful affair. Learning from that dinner, the chefs chose foods that could be prepared over the course of the week and simply had to cook and plate on Friday night, instead of ones that require extensive last-minute work.

"We had to plan our time really carefully," Stimson said. "This time we had a low-key Friday, and we got to enjoy it."

In order to accomplish the "low-key Friday," they did a lot of prep work earlier in the week.

"We worked Wednesday and Thursday from 3 to 7 p.m. chopping and peeling potatoes, making the mousse and the cake and the brownies ahead of time, pre-cooking the pasta. Seasoning the steaks. Grating cheese," Seabury explained. "It's not that glamorous, but we get all of that out of the way."

Dolci is by no means a singular effort by the meal's head chefs. Seabury and Stimson collaborated extensively with the Dolci board, the Atwater staff and even the wait staff on developing their meal. Initially, they had planned to bake the macaroni in ramekins but changed their minds after wait staff suggested baking the pasta separately and then transferring it to the dishes so that they would not be too hot to serve.

Throughout the week, the Atwater staff juggles their regular dining hall duties with helping the Dolci team prep their meal.

"On Friday, they will be working on other meals but if we have a question they'll completely stop their work and help us. They're wonderful," Stimson said.

For those who have never made it to a Dolci dinner before, the atmosphere is absolutely nothing like a dining hall. Rather than an array of napkin dispensers and empty salt shakers, Atwater tables are home to flickering candles, wooden-handled knives and water goblets. Guests are brought to their tables by wait staff, and attendees sit while the entire meal is served to them: drink orders are taken (dining hall, soda-fountain options, but out of a stemmed goblet, the experience just feels different) and courses are delivered, one after another, in a diversity of never-before-seen dishware.

I am seated with a group of six other lucky ticket winners, and we gorge on a cheese board with cheddar, goat cheese and bleu cheese, among other varieties, along with flavorful crackers, dried apricots and olives. Next, a grilled Caesar salad, served as an entire head of charred lettuce topped with shaved parmesan, vibrant dressing and bacon (sans bacon in the vegetarian option and sans parmesan in the vegan).

Then, the dishes start to get heavier and the pleasures guiltier. Truffle oil macaroni and cheese, served in ramekins and topped with a cracker crumble. Steak and potatoes — the vegetarian/vegan variety comes instead with grilled cauliflower, seasoned with the same flavorful rub as the steak. Finally, chocolate cake, chocolate mousse and strawberries dusted with cocoa powder. It's a *lot*, but that's the point.

As we enjoy our meal, we listen to a playlist of "guilty pleasure songs" submitted by the attendees: there's lots of Justin Bieber, Jonas Brothers and other early 2000s tracks.

My tablemates are, for the most part, repeat Dolci diners. As we eat, they reflect on past meals, recalling specific dishes and evenings that have lingered in their minds. It seems, in these discussions, that among certain friends, groups and sports teams, Dolci is well-known and highly anticipated, but to much of the campus, it's a bit of a secret.

Behind the Scenes with the Board

The students on Dolci's board are the gatekeepers of these Friday evening meals. They are involved in the preparation of every meal, and occasionally head chef meals of their own.

Every semester, the board receives between nine and 15 meal applications, a number that far exceeds the Dolci nights in a semester.

"We get quite a few applications that are cultural meals, things that people cook at home or associate with home countries, or people who have gone abroad and want to bring that cuisine back," Peachin explained. "Sometimes people will focus on a specific ingredient."

Ingredient-focused meals from the past include goat cheese, egg and salt.

In order to make their decisions about which meals get made, the board often considers creativity and environmental impact. "We've started to be stricter about choosing. Environmental impact is very important," Lundsgaard said. "We try to be mindful of our impact, and if a meal is centered around a less eco-friendly ingredient we try to think about that."

When the board chefs its own dinners, it tries to consider what foods are in season in Vermont at the time. Often, it will receive applications for meals that are variations on the same basic concepts, and the board tries to choose dinners that diverge from these norms.

"It's a restaurant, and it's our project," Lundsgaard explained. "We want to make sure that there is a certain level of ingenuity that cannot be found in the dining hall, and we're trying to push people to be more adventurous."

The board members are involved in each of the Dolci dinners. They help the chefs plan and revise their meals, make sure they accomplish all of the necessary preparation and help with cooking and cleaning on the Friday of the meal. But they take a back seat and allow the chefs to lead their own dinners.

As Lundsgaard puts it: "Ultimately our job is to execute what the chefs want for their meals and to serve the people who come in; that's what we're here for."

"We try to give the head chefs this experience that is, in my opinion, like nothing else you'll ever do at Middlebury, while at the same time making a community and a space where anyone can feel welcome," Peachin said. "We're always really focused on making sure both of those things happen."

The board does its best to develop a community through food. Head chefs are allowed to employ their friends to help prep, which creates a comfortable atmosphere in the kitchen.

"I could get a job at a restaurant in town and probably make a lot more money, but working here is something different," Lundsgaard said of his experience. "It's more communal, something that we're doing for the community, not just serving people food. At the end of the night you feel a sense of accomplishment."

Stimson and Seabury also noted this phenomenon. "You get paid to cook: if you like cooking it's the best job on campus, you can get paid to cook during the week and then enjoy the meal on Friday. It's the best of both worlds," Stimson said.

"This was one of the best experiences that I had here at Middlebury," Seabury explained. "Both of us are graduating and we're really sad to leave Dolci. It's a really cool experience that not many people get to have."

The board members believe that the experience of sharing a meal, both eating and cooking, is a unique and invaluable way to build community, and is in so many ways different from the dining hall meals that students have every day.

"It's much less anonymous," Peachin said. "It feels like something shared."

Dolci's New Direction

My impression of Dolci as a bit of a secret has not gone unnoticed by the board. Yang, the Dolci president, is making strides to get more people involved, both in eating and working. To do this, she has created a new website (go/dolci, or eatdolci.com), where she is trying to make Dolci more accessible through photos and blog posts. She is also increasing the organization's social media presence (@dolci.midd on Instagram) and plans to hire a social media director in the future.

"Even if you can't attend a dinner, or you don't know anything about Dolci, there's a place for you to find out," Yang said of the new efforts.

President Sarah Yang '19.5 preps the grilled caesar salad in the kitchen.

Dolci is changing in other ways, too. When Yang first became involved with the organization, far fewer people were employed or involved as head chefs. In her tenure, Yang has done her best to take the club away from this behavior, and has greatly expanded the web of students who participate in dinners.

"Now we run Dolci so that we don't focus on doing the minimum. We try to do the most, especially in employing people," she said.

There are many ways to get involved in Dolci: You can be a head chef, a prep cook, part of the wait staff or you can dine. Chefs must apply at the start of a semester, but to work with the kitchen or wait staff, students can go to go/workdolci on the Sunday before a dinner to sign up.

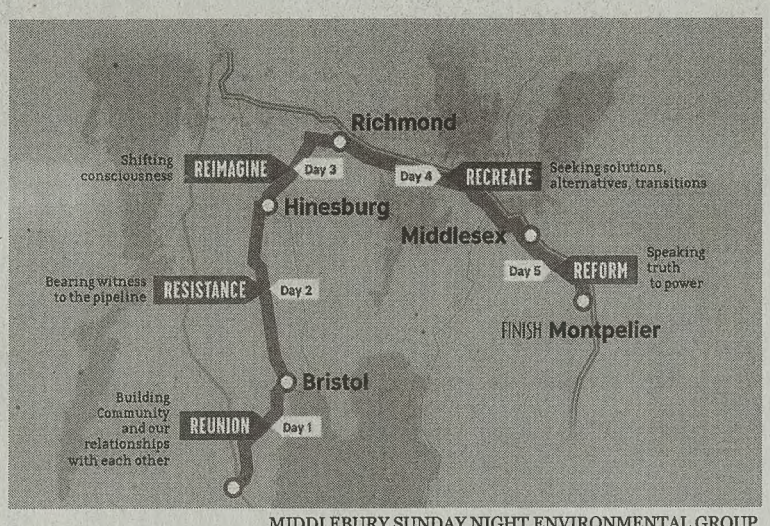
To eat, visiting go/dolcitix on the Wednesday nights prior to the dinner at 8 p.m. will bring you to the signup sheet. Tickets aren't guaranteed, as spots are limited to 40 people, but you can show up to the dinner at 6p.m. to be added to a waitlist.

Protesters March 65 Miles From Middlebury to Montpelier As Part of Climate Solutions Walk

By NICOLE POLLACK
Senior Writer

The protesters stood in a circle on the Middlebury Town Green, holding their handmade signs high: "Every Day is Earth Day," said one; "Got Emissions?" read the text beneath a cow-patterned milk jug; an arrow pointing to a hand-painted globe declared, "I'm with her."

United by their shared desire to take action against climate injustice, Middlebury College students joined community members for the kickoff of the Climate Solutions Walk that took place this past weekend. The crowds took to the hills, inspired by the young legislators propelling the Green New Deal forward in Congress and the teenagers strengthening the climate movement around the world. Their goal, in solidarity with Vermont's native communities, was to recognize the climate emergency. The activists hoped to celebrate solutions to this emergency while also grieving the damage it has already caused.



MIDDLEBURY SUNDAY NIGHT ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

A map of the route of the Climate Solutions Walk.

The walk, a 5-day, 65-mile trek from Middlebury to Montpelier, began on a windy, overcast Friday morning, but people chatted enthusiastically in spite of the sharp breeze and the rain forecast for the next several days. Most of them wore winter coats, knit caps, waterproof shoes, and backpacks. Some wielded cloth signs with "Climate Justice for Us" printed in bright colors around a drawing of a flower. Others pinned smaller "Climate Justice" signs to their backs and wore them like capes.

Organizers structured the kickoff as an interfaith ceremony of opening and reunion and asked those present to call out brief invocations as they were moved to. Among the shouted phrases were: high peaks, love, my daughters, facts, climatic freedom, justice, transformation, tenderness, resistance against extinction, power of the people, resilience, hope, wilderness, gratitude, earth, compassion, reciprocity, clean water and joy.

Four people then blessed the natural elements, each represented by an object resting on a cloth square in the center of the circle: shreds of fabric tied to a stick, a candle inside a lantern, a clear vase of water, and a potted plant. Divya Gudur '21, one of the student organizers of the march and a member of 350 Vermont 's Action Council, invoked Hinduism as she blessed the fire.

The speakers asked people to call out their intentions for the walk. Responses included: the power of the climate movement, awareness of the precious earth, healing, make our concerns visible, for the sake of future generations, giving truth to power, embodying our nature, my grandson, waking up, visibility, relationships, connection, going deeper, amplifying solutions, finding new directions, living by example, remembering what it means to be a true steward of this land and being thankful.

Environmental journalist and activist Bill McKibben, co-founder of 350 Vermont and the Schumann Distinguished Scholar at Middlebury, concluded the kickoff.

"As we walk, think about the people — even in the last two weeks — the people in the Midwest who dealt with floods like they've never seen before, lost their cattle, lost their crops, lost their homes," McKibben said, going on to outline some of the countless instances of suffering caused and exacerbated by climate change.

"Think about the people in Mozambique, who two weeks ago suffered what they're now describing as the worst natural disaster in the history of the Southern Hemisphere, when a cyclone smashed into Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe and left a thousand people dead; huge areas just turned into malarial lakes," McKibben urged. "Think about the people in Iran, where they're having the worst flooding right now they've ever had, every region of the country under an emergency order."

McKibben left his speech with words to keep the climate activists motivated even when their feet tired of walking: "Something like that now happens every single day. Someplace in the world people get their Irene now, every day. That's what happens when you change the atmosphere."

This walk follows in the footsteps of another climate march, from the Robert Frost Cabin in Ripton to Burlington, organized by McKibben in 2006.

"Middlebury — college and town — has been a real cradle of the climate movement," McKibben wrote in an email to The Campus. "Because it has the oldest environmental studies department in the world, it naturally focused on these issues before others did."

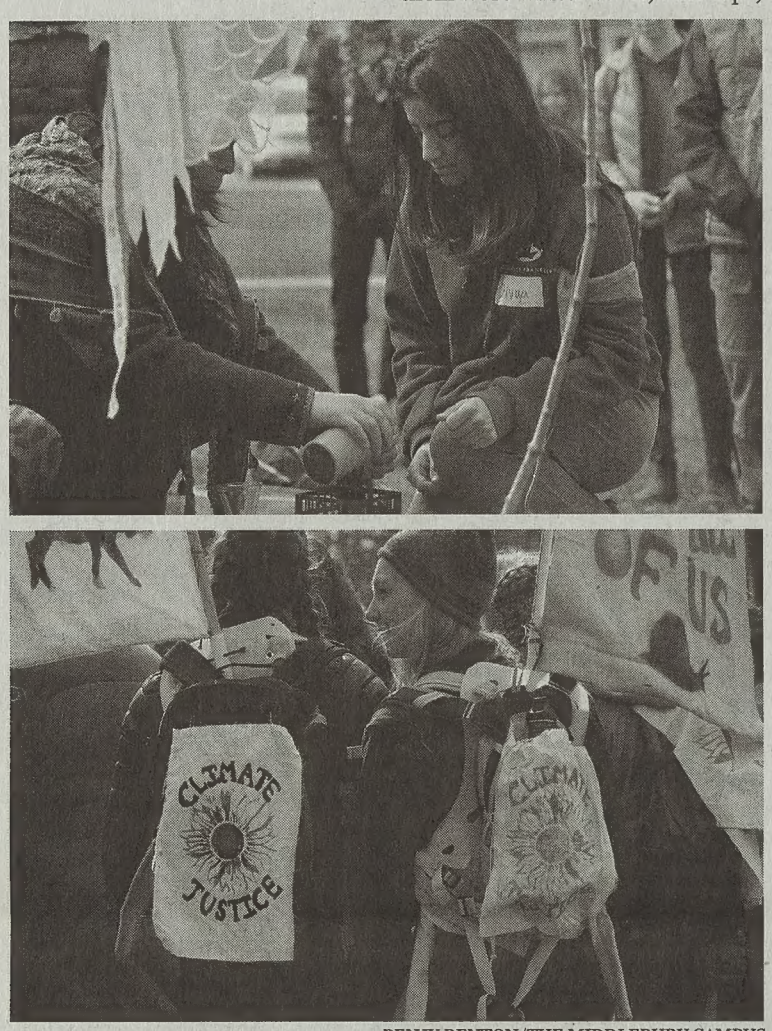
McKibben also described the residents of the town of Middlebury and of the state of Vermont as key players in the climate movement. He offered less credit to the state of Vermont, writing, "Vermont should be making clear and steady progress, but it really isn't: the legislature hasn't risen to the occasion, and so even here it is necessary to keep reminding them. It's always necessary to keep the pressure on!"

The protesters marched out of the Town Green, their signs aloft, singing "Lead With Love" and paraded off down Route 7 for the start of the climate walk.

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Students and community members set of on the 5-day trek.

> ***"Someplace in the world people get their Irene now, every day. That's what happens when you change the atmosphere."***



BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Top: Divya Gudur '21, a student organizer of the walk, participates in an opening interfaith ceremony. *Bottom:* Students and community members gather to call for climate change action.

Vermont Folklife Center Features Ice-Fishing Photography in Spring Exhibit

By PORTER BOWMAN
Staff Writer

Nestled between Otter Creek Bakery and Two Brothers Tavern, the Vermont Folklife Center (VFC) is giving people a glimpse into a winter pastime shared by many local Vermonters. This spring, the VFC's exhibit "Ice Shanties: Fishing, People & Culture" features the work of Vermont-based Colombian photographer Federico Pardo, who documented the ice fishing community on the West River in Brattleboro.

Ice shanties are small structures used for ice fishing that are placed on frozen portions of lakes, rivers and floodplains. Pardo, whose work focuses on the human relationship with nature, noted that these ice shanties "became an instant curiosity and a subject of fascination" when he saw them reemerge on the West River each winter.

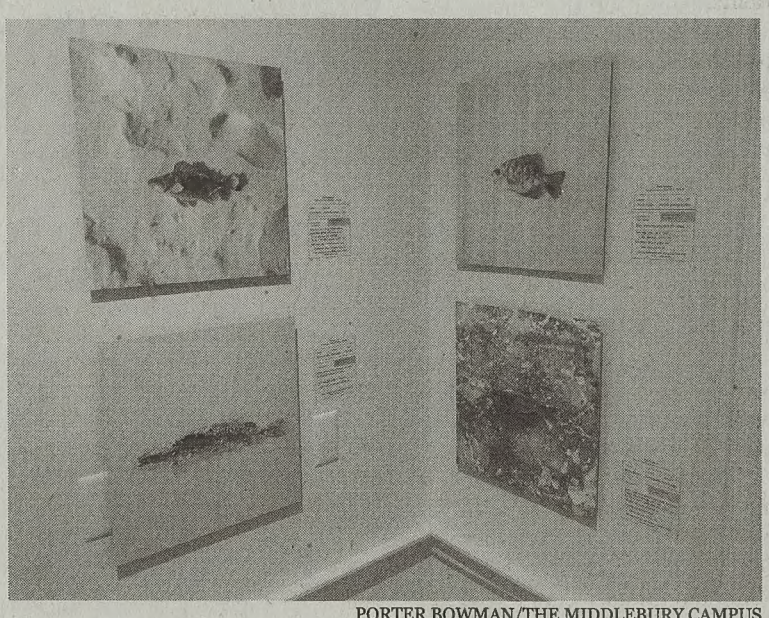
The images are carefully constructed pieces of photography. Pardo used long-duration exposures to capture the shanties at night, claiming it was a way to capture themes of "etherealness, solitude and contemplation." Through his use of the sunset and the nighttime sky, he creates "a surreal quality of blended night and day ... that tempt us to imagine otherworldly narratives about the shanties, their owners and the seemingly timeless space they inhabit," according to the VFC.

> ***"Folklore is being created every day by everyday people."***

The shanties in Brattleboro are just one of many ice fishing communities that arise every winter across the state. According to John Barstow, the VFC's Director of Development, ice fishing and the use of ice shanties are representative of "an oddball, subculture of local Vermonters." Barstow noted that many shanty owners view it as a hobby but will often keep the fish to cook for a meal. Along with the shanties, the exhibit also shows Pardo's photographs of the different types of fish that are typical catches from a day of ice fishing, such as the yellow perch, the chain pickerel and the golden shiner.

The VFC also worked with Pardo to conduct interviews and document the stories of the fishermen/women behind each of the shanties. The recorded interviews are available to viewers of the exhibit using a smartphone app or by calling a phone number to hear excerpts from the interviews. One such participant, Roy Gangloff of Dunnerston, can be heard discussing how he found the perfect leftover scraps from a construction project to build his sturdy and lightweight ice shanty, one he has used for over 25 years. Gangloff also tells stories about his fellow fisherman and of growing up ice fishing on similar lakes and rivers with his father.

This method of powerful storytelling is what the VFC is all about, according to Barstow. "Folklore is being created every day by everyday people, and a lot of folklife is history," he said. Jessie Kuzmicki '19 worked with the VFC this summer as a MuseumWorks intern.


PORTER BOWMAN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Images from the Ice Shanties exhibit feature a typical day's catch.

"I think all too often people idealize Vermont and its rural lifestyle, assuming that a certain quaint homogeneity exists throughout the state," she said, a Vermonter herself.

Kuzmicki's work on several VFC projects, including hearing stories from farmers in Rutland, drag queens in Brattleboro or migrant farm workers in Addison County "can bring awareness to and appreciation for the state's multifaceted culture and people."

Much of the work of the VFC is done to encourage Vermonters to learn more about one another. This ranges from empowering kids to go out into their own communities and interview people to maintaining an apprenticeship program to teach people crafts that could otherwise be lost, such as blacksmithing, weaving or playing the fiddle. Barstow also mentioned the work done by the VFC in immigrant communities in Burlington, especially with the large Bhutanese and Nepali immigrant population. The VFC supports efforts for families to teach their children music and culture in order to allow communities to maintain their cultural identities from generation to generation.

The VFC is engaged in a variety of other efforts, including housing a large archive of records and resources for folklife from different communities in Vermont, as well as their podcast, "Vermont Untapped," which delves into the different offerings of the archive. The original exhibits that start in Middlebury will also rotate out to other towns such as Brattleboro, St. Albans, Newport and Bennington in order to spread the work of the VFC to different corners of the state.

Plastic Bag Ban Update: Middlebury & State Senate Vote in Favor

By ANNA WOOD
Contributing Writer

In the annual Town Meeting vote, which took place on March 5 this year, Middlebury residents elected to pass an article to advise the town legislature to ban retail locations from distributing single-use, carry-out plastic bags. Created by Middlebury resident Amy McAninch and Amelia Miller '20, the article proposes the ban of plastic bag usage by local retailers and establishments.

Residents in Burlington and Manchester also voted this Town Meeting day to advise a ban on plastic bags, and this past summer Brattleboro became the first town in the state to enact a complete ban.

The Vermont Senate has caught on too, recently voting in favor of an act prohibiting single-use plastic products and styrofoam. The act, S.113, was approved on March 27. If enacted, it will ban plastic bags throughout Vermont and instead require stores and restaurants to charge 10 cents or more for paper bags. The Senate bill would also ban styrofoam coffee cups and food containers, and require that restaurants only provide straws upon request.

Middlebury's proposed ban has been a year in the works. Inspired by the plastic bag ban movement across New England, town resident McAninch initiated the proposal last spring. Miller came across McAninch's project while researching for an Environmental Policy class assignment. After connecting through Miller's professor, they successfully organized a petition and collected signatures from 5% of town voters. By campaigning at the Middlebury Co-op, public town events and the Middlebury Farmers' Market, they tallied hundreds of signatures, earning the petition a spot on the town ballot.

The article specifically prohibits the distribution of plastic bags less than 4 mils (0.0004 inches) thick; plastic bags are typically one to two mils thick. Any bag thicker than 4 mils would be too expensive for single use, encouraging customers to shop with reusable bags.

The town of Middlebury and other Vermont communities may want to invest in personal reusable items next year once these bans are enacted.

'Bundle' Pops Up on Main Street, Aims to Revitalize Downtown

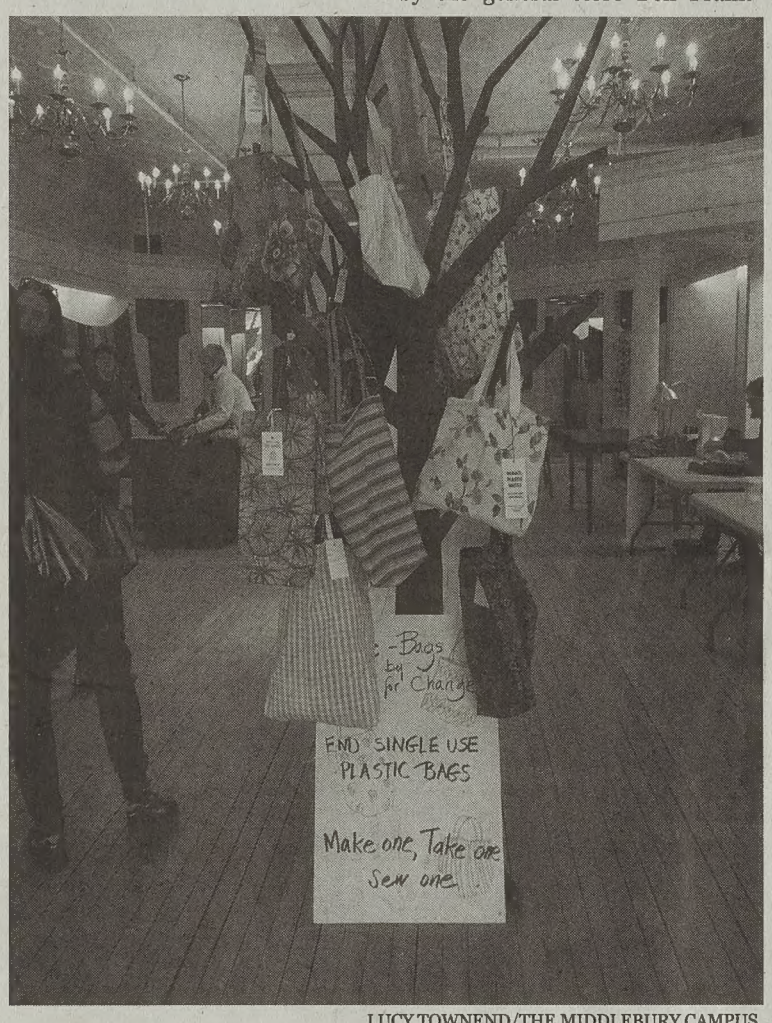
By LUCY TOWNEND
Contributing Writer

Bundle, a new organization recently installed at 60 Main St., hopes to bring the community together to revitalize the downtown area through pop-up stores, workshops and galleries.

Karen Duguay, Executive Director of the Better Middlebury Partnership (BMP), said that the space could bring an "infusion of energy" into Middlebury. Her hope is that the space will draw people downtown to meet their neighbors, learn new skills and check out the stores and restaurants in order to promote business in town.

The idea was the brainchild of Neighbors, Together, an action group comprised of stakeholders ranging from Middlebury College to Porter Hospital, who hope to mitigate the effects of the downtown construction. The BMP is the fiscal agent behind the new project. Kelly Hickey, a local artisan who created Edie and Glo, a handmade vintage clothing business, has been hired to manage the space.

"I prefer a more urban environment, and so I really wanted to create a feel for the two - a small community feel but with stuff going on downtown," said Hickey. She described Bundle and the space as "an intersection of experience and shopping" that merges urban and small town living.



LUCY TOWNEND/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
An example of some the bags created in the ReBag workshop at Bundle.

Events in April include the ReBag workshops, in which community members have the opportunity to make reusable bags in order to cut down on the use of plastic ones. The workshop ran on April 6 and is also scheduled for April 27 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"It's crafts as a form of activism," said Nancy, a community member involved with the organization.

"I just love to sew, and so this is a great way to sew and do things for others at the same time," added Mary Beth, another participant.

> ***"We need to encourage people to value community over cost and convenience."***

Other future events will include a secondhand clothes pop-up shop, which will coincide with the Middlebury Maple Run on May 5. The market will include vendors from Pittsfield to Burlington and will include jewelry and health oils as well.

"Local high schoolers don't often purchase from second hand stores because they don't like to wear other people's clothing," said Hickey, who thinks that bringing in retailers from other areas will mitigate this problem.

Bundle will also be involved in "Spring into the Arts" around Memorial Day, in which Bundle will showcase art from the Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center, Middlebury Union Middle School and Middlebury Union High School. The hope is that local artists will come in and collaborate with students on their work so that each group can learn from each other.

"It's a time when the youth can learn from the community member and the community member can learn from the youth," Hickey said.

The calendar will also feature swing dance workshops, a fiddle group, collaborations with the farmer's market and an African basket-weaving workshop led by residents from Shelburne. Both Duguay and Hickey emphasized that the space is meant to be part of a collaboration, not a competition.

The space at 60 Main St. was formerly occupied by Clay's, a women's clothing store that closed in June of 2018. Bundle rents the space on the condition that no other retailer wants to rent it, meaning that if a retailer wanted to open a new store, Bundle would move out after a 90-day grace period. "If anyone wants the space permanently we will step back...we can take it to a different space," Duguay explained. Hickey added that 51 Main St. and the space once occupied by the general store Ben Franklin could be additional options for Bundle.

Bundle and the Neighbors, Together organization were created to tackle the impacts of construction work downtown.

"Retail is declining nationwide," said Duguay, claiming that Middlebury's retail is "facing challenges never seen before."

Next summer is supposed to be the heaviest period of construction, and retailers are "nervous about future," Duguay said.

Asked about feedback, Hickey said, "people love the space, love the idea, but hate the parking," but also added that the lack of parking is part of the idea of Bundle. The hope is that visitors, especially from hotels and Airbnbs on the outskirts of town, will be drawn in by events at Bundle, have to park outside of town and then be forced to walk through downtown, interacting with stores, restaurants and the movie theatre.

Hickey and Duguay wish to include college students as much as possible in the process. "We want college students to feel an ownership of the downtown space," said Duguay, "and we need to encourage people to value community over cost and convenience."

"We just need to bundle everyone together," finished Hickey.

If any college student is interested for working for Better Middlebury Partnership or has any other ideas about how to mitigate the effects of downtown construction, contact Karen Duguay at karen@bettermiddleburypartnership.org.

If any student is interested in hosting a workshop or pop-up at Bundle or wants to know more about events, contact Kelly Hickey at sydzea@yahoo.com.

LUCY TOWNEND/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Nancy (right) and Mary Beth (left) participate in Bundle's ReBag workshop.

New Primary Care Facility Intimately Tends to Patients

By ZEKE HODKIN
Contributing Writer

The doctor is in, and she's taking an innovative approach to patient care. Doctor Laura Weylman, MD, and Ania Mortier, NP, recently opened Green Mountain Primary Care on 102 Court St. near Middlebury Union High School. The duo of trail-running companions left separate primary care practices in Addison County to form an alternative healthcare provider option of their own.

Weylman and Mortier employ their combined skill sets to provide patients with primary care, pain relief and treatments for chronic illnesses and ailments. "The basis of our practice is to keep our patient pool small and create a healthy, therapeutic relationship," Mortier told The Campus in an interview.

The two have long wanted to team up, but each has danced across Addison County, working in offices the other hasn't been in. Each had also been yearning for a more intimate connection with clients. The Court St. location has allowed them to finally realize their ambition of collaborating. Coincidentally located just upstairs from the facility is the Pregnancy Resource Center of Addison County, a Crisis Pregnancy Center (CPC) that students have criticized for being a deceptive resource for pregnant women seeking abortions. CPCs aim to discourage women from obtaining abortions by providing information that is often medically inaccurate and influenced by religious bias.

"We're not pro-life; we're pro-choice. There's no association there," Mortier explained. "For us, it's really important for people to understand there is no affiliation professionally."

At long last, the Mortier and Weylman strategized to create a practice that encourages patient health, emphasizing routine visits and developing long-lasting and refreshing relationships between the professionals and their patients.

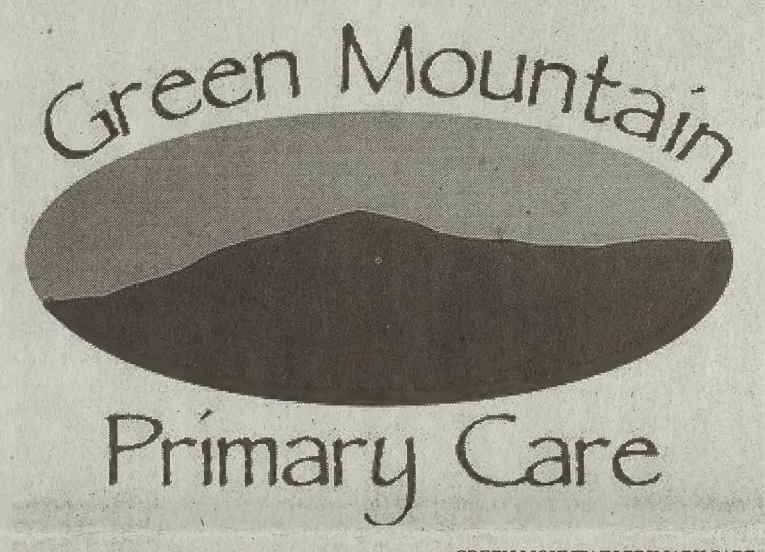
"Our goal has long been to work together because we're very similar to each other in our passion, our practice style and our approach to patients," said Mortier, adding, "We could never make it work [previously], but we really wanted to work together."

Their patient base is capped at approximately 300 individuals. The clinic also features and home visits, an online communications portal and a 24/7 hotline, all of which augment the intimacy and accessibility of the practice.

"What is most important to me is my relationships with my patients -- they are like family," Dr. Weylman wrote on the Green Mountain Primary Care website. "I want to care for them at the beginning of life, through life, and at the end of life."

The comprehensive services offered by the small practice are a testament to the founders' impressive knowledge in their fields; both of their resumes boast eye-opening credentials. Weylman has previously worked at primary care affiliates of Porter Medical Center. She received her doctorate degree from Dartmouth College and holds a master's degree in education from Harvard University.

Mortier has similar work experience and received both her master's degree in nursing and bachelor's degree in nutrition from the University of Vermont. Mortier is also trained or certified in a plethora of modalities, including bodywork and massage therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy, integrative dry needling and nutrition counseling for chronic pain. She is currently working toward a certification to administer biofeedback treatment and Botox.



GREEN MOUNTAIN PRIMARY CARE
GMPC's logo, which can be seen outside their Court St. location.

Green Mountain Primary Care offers patients three possible enrollment plans. Under the Health and Wellness plan, patients receive an annual hour-long comprehensive physical appointment. The physical includes routine and special screenings, disease prevention, health coaching, ECGs and other situational tests. This plan can also address sexual and women's health needs with Pap smears, STI testing and birth control prescriptions.

The Health and WellnessPLUS plan includes the same physical and its perks in addition to an integrative pain component, which consists of an initial pain consultation and subsequent monthly acupuncture, biofeedback, nutrition, bodywork or CBT sessions. Patients can also opt for the integrative pain package alone, dropping the physical appointment component.

> ***"What is most important to me is my relationships with my patients — they are like family."***

Each plan brims with the promise of a strong patient-provider connection. Every Green Mountain Primary Care patient receives access to an online portal for scheduling and communication, as well as connection to Weyman and Mortier on a 24/7 hotline. The providers also promise to support patients with guaranteed next-day appointments and referrals to specialists.

The around-the-clock hotline is a testament to both the tight-knit relationship Weylman and Mortier are developing with patients and their dedication to the practice. Mortier described the relationship she has with her patients as predicated on understanding and respect. The nature of their small practice means she knows full well her patients' health records and can be prepared to respond to them in times of health crises. Simultaneously, her patients are familiar with her background as a mother and avid trail runner.

"When people know you, they call you when they need you, and there's a different awareness of the resource," said Mortier. She has found that patients are far more understanding of her own limits as one half of a small primary care practice when she is able to kindle a relationship with them. She further posited that patients feel comfortable making appointments at times of health - not just for their physicals or when sick - to enhance their wellbeing.

All plans begin with a baseline monthly fee of $50 for private care; this is the entirety of the cost for the Health and Wellness plan. Working alongside a lawyer, the pair was able to comply with the law while also eliminating the burden insurance companies can pose towards continued, intimate care. The monthly fee must be paid out-of-pocket. Insurance companies, many of whom the practice is credentialed with, can then cover drop-in visits made by patients as well as emergency room visits.

For patients with robust insurance plans and generous co-pay rates, visits beyond the annual physical can abound, and they can lean into visiting their physician routinely to draft a healthy living plan for themselves. The direct-care approach also allows the practice to offer patients medications and lab tests at wholesale prices.

According to Mortier, this approach is sustainable, legal and "encourages a really healthy, therapeutic relationship.We don't see seven other providers' patients," she said, "and they certainly don't ask, 'Who are you?'"

Mortier contends that their model will be successful because of the unique harmony between patient and provider, and between prevention and remediation. The practice has certainly seen early success. Mortier has had to curtail the amount of integrative pain patients she's enrolling due to astronomical demand. A large amount of Green Mountain Primary Care's current patient base has followed Weylman and Mortier from their previous practices, yet they are also quickly gaining attention from Middlebury locals. Their enthusiasm and desire to establish a positive connection with their patients is a welcome addition to the local medical landscape.

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A Call to Nerd Out

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD

With the Spring Student Symposium happening tomorrow, all of us here at The Campus cordially encourage you to embrace your inner nerd. This sort of academic initiative can take many forms. Maybe you attend a friend's symposium presentation and discuss their work over dinner afterward. Maybe you go to a professor's office hours and finally ask them about their independent research. Maybe you grab a meal with that one kid who always makes profound comments in class. At the end of the day, virtually any type of extracurricular academic engagement will be intellectually stimulating and provide you with unique perspectives on topics you may never have encountered.

The symposium is one of the few occasions where we can directly observe our peers' work. Symposium presentations are amazing opportunities to expand your intellectual horizons and learn about topics beyond your specific major or coursework. You may also come across other like-minded students who share your interests and would be more than happy to continue academic discussions beyond the symposium. So, rather than wasting the entire day off, why not attend a few presentations and learn something new?

While we certainly encourage you to wholeheartedly embrace the Spring Symposium, we do not believe extracurricular intellectualism should stop there. Many of us on the editorial board have found that some of our most memorable and interesting discussions at the college have occurred in non-academic settings, and we encourage students to actively foster such discussions on campus as often as possible.

We would thus like to propose a series of recommendations that may promote the academic spirit of the symposium throughout the school year. First, we believe the administration should revitalize the college's tradition of professor-student lunches by allowing professors to get a select amount of meals with students for free. Talking with professors in non-academic settings not only enables students to solidify their understanding of in-class material, but also provides an opportunity to explore tangential subject matter that may have been overlooked by the course syllabus.

We also think more academic departments should hold additional coffee hours or lunches to foster scholarly discussions among students interested in similar topics. These events should be accessible to everyone regardless of individual majors to encourage a culture of academic curiosity where students willingly leave their intellectual comfort zones and engage with new material.

The pilot computer science language table is a great example of an academic department taking initiative to foster extracurricular discussions among interested students, and should thus act as an example for other departments moving forward. These extracurricular events could encompass everything from coffee hours to meeting up at a professor's house for dinner, so long as they provide students with adequate platforms to engage in intellectual discussions.

Joining academic clubs on campus is yet another way to surround yourself with individuals who are more than willing to engage in intellectual discussion. These clubs are open to all students across all disciplines, and represent a perfect opportunity to embrace academic interests in low-stress extracurricular environments.

We also encourage students to reach out to classmates whom they may not know but who make interesting comments in class. If a fellow student shares an idea that surprises or intrigues you, ask them to lunch! Take advantage of the fact that you both share a similar academic interest and discuss subject matter related to your class; you may even make a new friend.

We also advocate for more professors to prioritize student participation in their classes over lectures. Many members of the editorial board believe in-class discussions provide more incentive to complete coursework and assigned readings ahead of time as a means to participate. When the professor simply regurgitates the contents of an assigned reading during class, students may feel less motivated to actually complete the readings themselves and may lack personal investment in the subject material as a result. As such, we think more discussion-based courses should be accessible to the general student body (rather than just upperclassmen) to encourage as much intellectual investment as possible throughout students' academic careers.

We would also like more students to pursue their own academic endeavors outside of class. Whether this means creating an independent short film with a few friends or conducting independent research based on a historical topic covered in class, we believe these projects present valuable opportunities for students to take more initiative in their academic development throughout college.

The college's Divestment Movement is a perfect example of students becoming inspired from their academic coursework and taking initiative outside of class to make a difference on campus. While not all extracurricular ventures need to have large institutional impacts on the college, we can all still appreciate the intellectualism that catalyzed the Divestment Movement and channel similar sentiments towards our own academic passions outside of class.

Additionally, the college should host more opportunities for students to intellectually engage with members of the local community. While it's great that much of the college's extracurricular intellectualism coincides with the invitation of outside speakers to campus, we should maintain these conversations year-round with the dynamic people who reside here in Middlebury. The white supremacy teach-in last month was an excellent example of facilitating discussion among the members of our community that should be emulated through future events.

Tomorrow's Spring Student Symposium represents an amazing opportunity for us all to engage our intellectualism beyond the classroom, but why stop there? Why not make the most of these four years and meet new people, leave your comfort zone and learn something new?

How the New York Times Taught Two Campus Editors to Hope (and Write Better Headlines)

By SARAH ASCH & BOCHU DING

For aspiring journalists, the news industry has been looking grim lately. The media has lost 2,400 jobs so far in 2019, and after months of flipping between cover letters and articles about layoffs, the New York Times Student Editors Conference was like a small, hopeful oasis in the middle of busy Manhattan.

We arrived Friday morning along with 98 other student journalists from schools across the country, walked past the Times' Pulitzer Wall and took our seats in a giant conference room. We spent the day learning from industry experts, including Sam Dolnick, the assistant managing editor of the Times who helped launch The Daily, and Meghan Louttit, who explained how the Times has stayed at the forefront of digital journalism and storytelling.

Nicholas Kristof, a two-time Pulitzer prize winning columnist, also dropped in to visit and regaled us with tales about being chased through a jungle by a warlord after a plane crash.

The conference included some useful workshops, such as a digital headline-writing session, during which Mark Bulik taught us how to grab readers attention on social media without falling into the category of clickbait. In discussing The Edit, a Times newsletter geared toward college students, Lindsey Underwood asked us to brainstorm ways the paper can better cover our generation.

We also had the chance to meet our peers from institutions in Virginia, Oregon, Iowa, Missouri and Puerto Rico. We learned about the struggles they face in their newsrooms and the truly inspiring work they do as they strive to, as Kristof put it, "comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable."

COURTESY PHOTO
Bochu Ding (left) and Sarah Asch.

If nothing else, the conference impressed upon us that journalism is an ever-evolving medium full of possibility and change. Some stories are best told in good, old-fashioned, written format and some do best in audio or video, or through intentionally illustrated graphic design. This is an exciting prospect to apply to our own work at The Campus as we look for ways to branch out and represent the full breadth and depth of the student experience here with the complicated nuance it deserves.

We left the conference full of hope that journalism has a bright future. This might sound silly but that is the first time we had felt that way in a while. The Times pitched us their brand — their best digital work, their plan to branch into television, their goal to more than double their subscription base by 2025 — and we are not going to lie it all sounded pretty amazing. Plus they gave us tote bags, so what do we have to complain about?

It felt like we were encouraged to dream big about what the news can be, and we saw the mind-blowing work of those who came before us who had those same dreams. As we return to Middlebury, back to our newspaper that is somewhat protected from concerns about subscriptions and competitivity, we hope to harness the creative energy from that room and get back to work telling the stories that matter to our community, in whatever way those stories need to be told.

Sarah Asch, '19.5, is an editor-at-large and Bochu Ding, '21, is the Information Insights Director for The Campus.

Why I'm An Annoying Vegan

By ASHER LANTZ

I'm vegan and I went abroad for my febmester. Sometimes I struggle figuring out which of these to tell someone first when I meet them. At this point, I've decided to just go with both and berate people with my amazing cultural experiences and moral superiority.

I've been vegan for a year and a half. When I jumped in cold tofurkey last year, the only thing I thought I knew about veganism was that vegans are loud, annoying and can't stop talking about veganism. I decided it would be fun to play up that character and jokingly be the annoying vegan around my friends. But as most things go in my life, what started as ironic is now entirely unironic. This is because over the past year I've learned that veganism is way more important than I thought. It blew my mind how little I or the average person knows about the impact of dietary choices. I want to share a few of the mind-blowing facts I've learned about the three tenants of veganism (environment, health, and ethics) and describe why I'm not afraid to be an annoying vegan.

A vegan diet is by far the diet with the smallest impact on the environment. If we all consume animal products at the rate we are now, we will never see our world overcome the climate change crisis. Scientific studies have shown for years that the most effective way to benefit the environment (besides not having kids) is to cut back on animal products in your diet. This is because production of all types of animal products is incredibly less efficient than plant products. If we took all of the land that is being used to raise animals or grow crops for those animals and instead used it to grow crops for human consumption, we could meet the food requirements of the entire world multiple times over. The animal agriculture industry is responsible for 18% (some say upwards of 51%) of all greenhouse gas emissions, more than all cars, trains, planes and every other vehicle in the transportation industry combined.

However, environmental impact goes well beyond just carbon footprint. It's commonly stated that our oceans are dying, but it's a little known fact that the majority of the trash in the ocean is fishing nets and equipment. Overfishing is destroying coral reefs and vital ocean ecosystems. Animal agriculture is responsible for up to 91% of Amazon deforestation. The animal waste runoff from factory farms pollutes rivers and is destroying ecosystems. It takes 56 gallons of water to produce a single egg and 1,000 gallons of water to produce a gallon of milk. It's time for Middlebury to stop blindly thinking that our animal product consumption is in line with our environmental ideals.

There are huge health benefits from switching to a healthy vegan diet even from a healthier standard American diet. A vegan diet helps prevent thirteen of the fifteen leading causes of death in the United States, including cancer, diabetes, stroke and especially heart disease. That's not vegan propaganda; there are a multitude of studies to support this claim. The American Dietetic Association states that a plant-based diet is appropriate for all stages of the life cycle, including pregnancy and childhood. In other words, according to nutritional experts, you will not get any deficiencies with a well-planned vegan diet. Additionally, you can easily get your protein needs on a vegan diet. Fifteen members of the Tennessee Titans NFL team are vegan. There are many vegan super athletes and many super athletes going vegan.

Animals in the agriculture industry are subject to the most brutal pain and suffering you can imagine being inflicted on a living being. The phrase "humane slaughter" is an obvious oxymoron, and the entire concept is a myth. Due to the demands for efficiency in the butchering process, slaughtering methods are almost always performed sloppily, leading to excruciating pain and immense fear in the animal. The footage of factory farming that you've hopefully seen (if not, watch the film Dominion), is not the extreme footage. It's the industry standard. Over 90% of farm animals in the United States live on factory farms with these brutal practices. Local farms are also far from being cruelty-free. The production of dairy requires the non consensual impregnation of cows and for calves to be taken from mothers immediately at birth. Hens have been bred to lay eggs twenty times more than what is biologically normal for them, leading to painful health complications. In the vast majority of cases, male chicks that are born in the egg industry are immediately (like moments after birth) tossed into a meat grinder. If you're against animal abuse, you're against the animal agriculture industry.

These facts are only the tip of the iceberg. Most people say that they're fine with people being vegan as long as they're not annoying about it, because diet is a personal choice. But diet is not a personal choice. You're literally choosing the fate of other living beings and the fate of the environment. So I'm not going to be shy about telling you to be vegan. Every day we are destroying the environment a little more. Every day people are being killed or crippled by preventable diseases. Every day millions of sentient, feeling animals are being born into a life of pain and misery. There's no time to be shy.

Please contact me if you have comments or questions. I'm always willing to talk about these issues.

Asher Lantz is a member of the Class of 2019.5.

Ask Tré: On Sexuality

By TRÉ STEPHENS

Dear Tré,
How do I deal with the fact that everything has to have a label? Sexuality is fluid but I feel pressured to "decide" what I am.
-Anonymous

Dear Reader,

Thank you for your submission! I want to address what you said about sexuality. You said "sexuality is fluid, but I feel pressured to 'decide' what I am." When it comes to sexuality, I like to think of it as a coloring page. People say there is a right and wrong way to color a page, but I beg to differ. Some may color in the lines, out of the lines, some may not color the page at all, or may not use the "appropriate" colors when creating their masterpiece. What matters is that you know that you are content and proud of what you created. It's the same with sexuality. You are in control of how you define your sexuality. Nothing and nobody can change the way you feel, and there isn't one way in particular that you should present your sexuality. So, you are correct. Sexuality is fluid and you shouldn't feel pressured at all when it comes trying to figure out what the appropriate identity tag is for you.

I'd like to address your original question by sharing some of my own story in hopes that it will help you in some way. When I first came to Middlebury, there were many people who thought I was just gay. Even I thought I was gay. But as I have grown, I just haven't found that to be true anymore. I have claimed to be gay, bisexual, pansexual and even demisexual. What I found out though, is that maybe, just maybe, I'm just sexual. Why should I have to place a label on myself just to fit into a certain group? Everytime I thought I found the right label for myself, I would just start questioning all the contradictions I had with my newly found sexuality. I mean even my friends joke around and question what I am, and while I argue with them every now and again about it, I also just tell them to mind their own business because it shouldn't matter to them. I've learned that even friends need to be put in their place from time to time. I have accepted that people have labels and that labels are something that will be around for a while. But, don't expect me to label myself because I don't find it necessary to have one. Just like I accept that there are labels out there, the world will have to accept that labels don't work for me.

Over many years, we have been trying to find ways to label ourselves for two purposes: to find people with common identities and to single out anyone who is different from us. I use the word "us" because we all do it in some way, shape, or form. Labels have been around for a long time and I don't think we are in the age, yet, where labels don't matter. In terms of finding a label for your sexuality, if you feel like you don't need one then you probably don't. You shouldn't feel pressured to label yourself as anything if you don't want.

My advice to you and to the rest of readers who may have the same question is that it doesn't matter how you identify as long as you continue to walk in YOUR truth. It is no one's business what you do in YOUR personal life. If you feel pressured by anyone to box yourself into a label, tell them that it's not their decision and if those people can't accept that, then just tell them that this is not up for debate as it isn't even about them. Walk in YOUR truth and look fabulous while doing so.

I hope this advice serves you well, and if you ever want to ask more questions you can always submit questions to go/asktre/ or find me on Facebook at Tré Stephens. Thanks for reading and check next week's edition of Ask Tré.

Tré Stephens is a member of the Middlebury College class of 2021.

What We Talk About When We Talk About Not Letting Each Other Talk About Sensitive Issues

By THE LOCAL NOODLE EDITORIAL BOARD

Okay, let's take it from the top.

Three weeks ago, the Local Noodle received a picture of a CHEM 103 test with a question asking students to calculate lethal doses of gas as it was used in the Holocaust. We unanimously agreed it deserved to be publicly known and formally denounced, but had heard nothing from the administration. We waited a couple weeks, and still, even after spring break, heard nothing. Not from the administration, not from the Community Bias Response Team (CBRT), and not from The Campus, whom we knew were also aware of the incident. So, we drafted our article, and after some group reflection and deliberation, we decided it ought to be published.

Thirty-six hours after our article went up, at 9:12 a.m. on a Sunday, without having reached out to us, the CBRT sent out an all-school email. In it, they denounced the test question, acknowledged the student initiative to decolonize the curriculum, and criticized our article, saying its "light handed references to and engagement with the Holocaust have caused additional harm."

That email, in our mind, was inappropriate. The CBRT grouped our article into the same paragraph as the chemistry question and apologized for both together, as if the professor's question was equally offensive as our attempt to bring it to light. This joint condemnation of both the question and our article was then reiterated in an all-grade email to the senior class and again in an email to Atwater Commons. These new emails also announced that motions were made for the entire faculty, and yours truly, to have to attend sensitivity training, still without any attempt to contact The Noodle. (We reached out to the CBRT on Sunday and have yet to hear back from them, or from any other administrative body.)

Let's pause.

This was not the CBRT's attempt to give us feedback. It was not an attempt to respectfully open dialogue about this incident, or the implications of our article. It was a strong-arm tactic used by the administration to scare a student publication. It's a way to publicly shame The Noodle, to make a show of denunciation while covering their asses. The CBRT did not explain their accusation beyond the fact that we "caused additional harm." They don't say to whom, or in what way, or why. This email was meant to clean up the CBRT's image and deprecate the group that called attention to their initial failure.

As an editorial board, we struggled to figure out whether and how to respond to this shaming. Our initial thought was to issue a rote apology, because given how such denunciations typically unfold, we feared that defending our article would automatically be perceived as insensitive and ignorant. We nonetheless decided to respond because we think that not doing so would be a missed opportunity to have a serious discussion about who we are as a campus, and how we protect the role of social criticism even if it touches on sensitive topics.

It's okay to critique satire. We are more than happy to hear and talk about when we may, in our attempt to expose abuses of power, bump up too hard against protected social values. But the CBRT did not try to engage in this conversation. It flattened the complexity of our article into a misstep, as a way to blame us and defend its own passivity and lack of public response.

In doing so, the CBRT shifted the conversation. They distracted it from the thing we ought to be focusing on — like, say, the actual test question, and their own public inaction — to a debate about whether our article is offensive.

The truth is, like with any hard-hitting satire, some people will think our article was offensive, some will think it wasn't, and there's not much good trying to convince people one way or another. We stand by the publication of this article the way it is, but, to any who were hurt by it, we do honestly assert that was not our intention.

From what we've heard, most of the specific feedback has centered on the name choice of Richard Klement. To address this directly: this was unintentional. Our idea was to Anglicize the name Ricardo Klement, the pseudonym Eichmann used when he moved to Argentina. The fact that Richard Klement also happens to be the name of a Holocaust victim was a total accident. We appreciated the direct feedback on this because it helped us clear up a misunderstanding that had nothing to do with the satirical purpose of the piece.

Satire's goal has never been to win everyone over. It uses tools like absurdism and irony to make its point, but its goal is to offer very real and constructive social criticism. It's inherently provocative and uses humor to draw attention to social actors and reflect their failings back at them. Inevitably, satire echoes those failings, and thus can easily be confused with the wrong it seeks to criticize.

In this case, we feel like the public conversation surrounding this incident has been distracted by our article, when it could — and should — be directed at the things we ought to be talking about: an appallingly insensitive chemistry question. The fact that a professor asked students to calculate the mechanics of a gas chamber used in the Holocaust is unthinkable. The fact that the CBRT was not planning on publicy addressing it, even though news of it had spread amongst students, feels unfathomable.

But at this point, the debate over our critique has taken on a life of its own, as evidenced by the mass reaction. Something seems to have struck a deeper note. What's prompting such a forceful response, from students and faculty alike? Clearly it's something much bigger than the question of whether a satirical article does or doesn't cross the line.

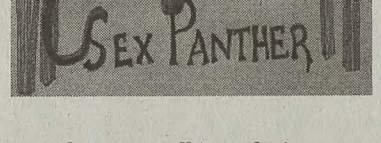
We believe that the CBRT answered that question in their vague, blanketing critique of our article. The offense, again in their words, was "light handed references to and engagement with the Holocaust." The fact that that was the only explanation of the "additional harm" our article caused highlights a questionable cultural norm: the idea that engagement with a sensitive topic, just by the nature of its engagement, must conform to a certain script or run the risk of being labeled as harmful.

Yes, we called attention to a problem, and yes, we did it in a provocative way, but that is the point of satire and of our publication. We aren't saying we did it perfectly. But to condemn the article in such a reflexive and public way preemptively silences any constructive discussion of the topic. Such a reaction is antithetical to open conversation, and it speaks to a larger trend on our campus of fear-based self-censorship around topics that should and need to be to discussed.

We would like to use this platform to make a broader argument: that as a campus, we should be able to authentically engage with sensitive issues, free from the fear of being labeled, shamed, and denied the opportunity to open dialogue. If not, we'll build barriers to engagement with the things that divide us — the very things that need engagement most.

Sex Panther: Emergency Contraception

By SEX PANTHER



I loooove talking during sex. Moans and groans? Sexy as hell. Affirmations of consent? Even sexier. Making jokes to lighten the mood? Dirty talk? Yes and yes. I'll take it all, please and thank you.

But there is one thing I never, never want to hear during sex. "I think the condom just broke." That one's a real mood-killer.

If you're like me and you've been on the receiving end of a broken condom, you know that stomach-dropping, panicky feeling that comes with it. Sex can be scary — why are there so many risks associated with something so fun??? — but a broken condom doesn't mean the world is ending. If STD transmission is the paramount concern, I recommend talking to your partner about their and your sexual health and getting tested immediately. But if you're like me, a pregnancy-paranoid, uterus-havin' humyn who's not on another form of birth control and is trying to keep her eggs unfertilized, it's time to take the handy dandy morning-after pill.

The pill, colloquially known as Plan B, is an emergency contraceptive that delays ovulation so you can remain your un-pregnant self. The most popular and widely-available brand of the pill is Plan B One Step, which uses the synthetic hormone levonorgestrel (which is a lot like the natural hormone progesterone) to delay the release of the egg from the ovary. The science jargon makes that all sound more intense than it actually is - Plan B is basically just a single-use, higher-dose birth control pill. The levonorgestrel Plan B pills are especially great because you can get them over the counter; another variety of emergency contraception, called ella, is more effective but requires a prescription. None of the Plan B options prevent contraction of STDs.

A broken condom isn't the only reason for enlisting the help of my girl Plan B. You might have forgotten to put the condom on, or haven't been taking your regular birth control, or maybe your partner didn't pull out in time (a separate column on pulling out to come – pre-cum, beware!). In any case, you shouldn't use Plan B as regular birth control — other forms of contraception, like birth control pills and IUDs, are more consistently effective and less expensive — but there is no limit to the amount of times you can take it. She really is a life-saver.

This magical little pill does come at a price, about $50 at most drug stores. But GREAT news: You can buy Plan B at Parton for only $18, which is the per-unit cost for the pill when the health center buys it in bulk. AND if you need financial assistance for Plan B (or other sexual health services), Parton will hook you the f*ck up for even cheaper. I don't think that many people know this — the health center said it receives between zero and six Plan B visits per month — but I am telling you now: if you have a sex-mergency, get your ass to Parton! And get it there within 72 hours – the pill is most effective within three days of a slip up, though it is technically good for an additional two days after that. But the sooner you take it, before the pregnancy has implanted in the uterus, the better it will work.

The health center also offers STI screenings and treatment, contraception counseling and UTI exams and treatment, among a bevy of other sexual health services. And the health center won't tell your parents, or alert them of your Plan B purchase, if you're worried about them finding out. Though I can't relate. In high school, I asked my mom to drive me to CVS to get Plan B when the condom broke with my high school beau, so we're past that point and comfortably living in the TMI zone.

The pill is also available at Planned Parenthood clinics, most drug stores and online. There is no age minimum or any health requirements precluding purchase. You can also find rebates and coupons on the Plan B website to avoid that daunting $50 price tag.

I will warn you that Plan B can come with some gnarly side effects. More often than not, it messes with your period and causes some nausea (though there have been instances after which I've been completely symptom-free). But you know what else has those effects? Pregnancy. And I'll take mild nausea and cramps if it means my uterus can remain baby-less any day, please and thank you.

Plan B is great, but even better is avoiding the need to take it altogether. A preventative, pre-penetration precaution I recommend is to keep your condoms safety stored so that they won't rip or wear too thin before the sexy times even happen. Condom carrying cases, for example, will keep your rubbers from rubbing against the other shit in your bag and will keep them away from sharp objects. Plus, if you're like me and you store your condoms in the school supplies compartment of your backpack, it makes opening your bag to grab a pen in front of your professor a little less risky.

During sex, use lots o' water-based lubrication to decrease chances of tearing from friction. Invest in good, lubed-up condoms, too — I like Skyn and Trojans the best — and don't use a condom if it's expired – this means the material has worn thin and there is an increased chance of breakage. Some positions also might be more friction-inducing than others; for example, most breakages I've had have been in doggy position. But that shouldn't stop you from getting creative with how you get down. So make sure those condoms are nice and lubed up, or find another birth control method that works for you.

Condom breakages and pregnancy scares can be terrifying, my sexy readers. And it is frustrating that the onus falls entirely on women to deal with these matters — male birth control, WYA?!! — but it doesn't need to be as scary as it often feels. Plan B is your friend and she'll always be there for you. even when your condom isn't.

We Apologize For Offensive Test Question

By THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY & BIOCHEMISRY

We write to acknowledge and offer deep apologies for an egregiously inappropriate question, related to the use of chemical agents during the Holocaust, that one of our departmental faculty members included on an exam earlier this semester.

We understand and share the feelings of outrage, hurt, and disappointment expressed by many within our community. The use of such a question is indefensible and antithetical to the core values and aspirations we hold for our department, for our discipline, and for our profession. We profoundly regret the use of this question and the harm it has caused.

This incident makes us more acutely aware of the critical work we need to do to address the broader systemic inequities and injustices that hinder full participation and success in our courses and in our field. We commit ourselves to doing this urgent work and to earning your trust and confidence in our ability to create a safe and welcoming learning environment for all students. We begin the work of listening and learning by inviting concerned students, faculty, and staff to a restorative circle (details to be shared when finalized).

This op-ed is signed by every faculty member of the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry. They are:

Richard Bunt
Jeffrey Byers
Sunhee Choi
Robert Cluss
Molly Costanza-Robinson
Michele Dube
Lesley-Ann Giddings
James Larrabee
Stephen Oster
Lindsay Repka
Mary Jane Simpson
AnGayle Vasiliou

Notes from the SGA President

By NIA ROBINSON

Happy (kind of) spring everyone!

Old and New Notes:

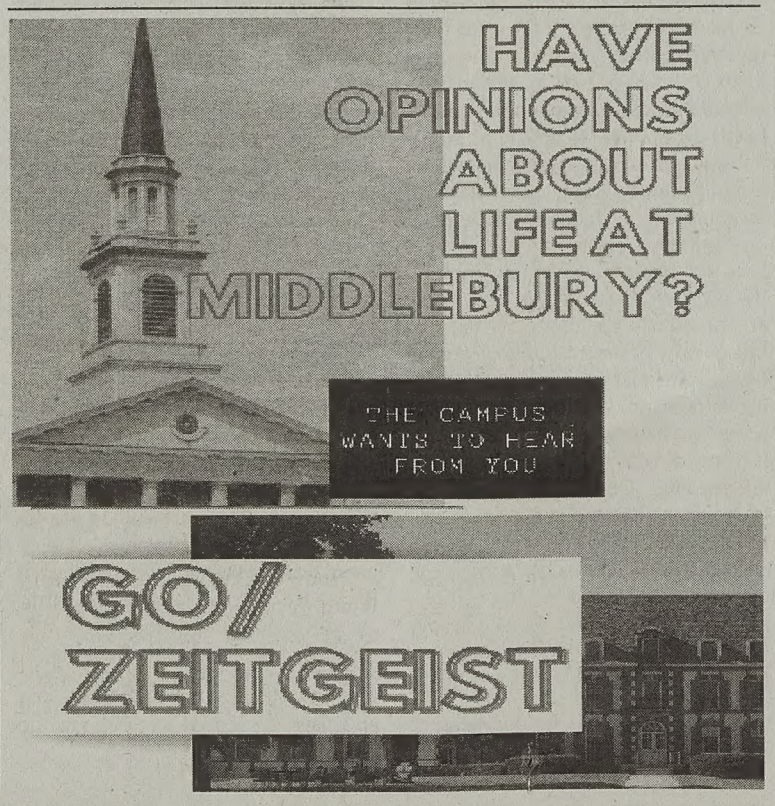
1. Thank you to everyone who has shared feedback or ideas with go/heysga. We encourage everyone to use it as a resource.

2. Election season is upon us! Please be sure to check your emails for the candidates' statements of intent. Also, if you are interested in being part of SGA in a non-elected position, please keep your eye out for opportunities.

3. As we reach the end of the year, please take advantage of opportunities for feedback, whether it be talking to your senators or filling out surveys. Students in leadership positions put a lot of time and energy into their work and can serve the student body when frustrations and ideas are shared.

That's all for now! Wishing you all a smooth landing as we transition into a new season.

Nia Robinson is a member of the Middlebury College class of 2019 and is the SGA President.



Letter to the Editor:

Parent Defends The Local Noodle

By KATHY LEINHARDT

As a parent of a Middlebury student watching the Noodle kerfuffle from the outside, I am appalled. It doesn't take college-level reading comprehension to grasp that what The Noodle was doing was not trivializing the Holocaust, but mocking a professor who did so. The piece also brought to light an incident that had been kept quiet by the administration; this is of course the very essence of good journalism. I have to wonder whether the CBRT's criticism of The Noodle wasn't written in the hope of diverting some attention away from their handling of the original issue.

I read the Noodle article and found it pointedly funny (and yes, if it matters, I am Jewish). I understand that others may not find the article humorous, or may think that it is in bad taste; that is an occupational risk of satire. What I do not understand is how some readers inferred that the author was somehow exhibiting anti-Jewish bias.

The reaction of the Student Senate appalls me more than anything else, including the chemistry test question. To suggest revoking The Noodle's funding over this article illustrates the tendency on today's college campuses for students to want to silence speech that they dislike, rather than to refute it. Having spent time in a country where freedom of expression was not allowed, I can assure you that the idea of shutting down speech (hate speech excepted) is FAR more dangerous than exposing students to ideas that they disagree with, and that has never been more true than in our current era. Our president would like nothing more than to have the ability to shut down speech that he disagrees with, and the result of that would be the end of any vestige of democracy in this country. Please do let me know if The Noodle's funding is revoked. I would be happy to donate to the publication, and to help it secure other donations so that it is no longer reliant on Middlebury for funding.

The other suggestion that the Student Senate made, that the Noodle's staff needs to be singled out for anti-bias training is patently absurd. Train the whole student body, if you think it will help. But please, train the faculty first!

Kathy Leinhardt is the parent of a current Middlebury College student.

'Baltimore Waltz' Tells Personal Story of Loss Through the Surreal

By MONIQUE SANTOSO
Online Editor

The way we deal with the death of a loved one makes for an incredibly personal narrative. After the passing of her beloved brother Carl, playwright Paula Vogel found her own unique way to let the world know how dear he was to her, by writing a loving tribute and political statement through a play titled "The Baltimore Waltz."

This past weekend, Seeler Studio Theatre was transformed into the thrilling set of "The Baltimore Waltz" for the first of two Spring term faculty-directed shows. Directed by Associate Professor of Theater Cláudio Medeiros '90, the 90-minute production ran evening performances on April 4 through 6 and one matinee on April 5.

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Madeleine Russell and Alexis de la Rosa (both '19) portrayed siblings Anna and Carl on an emotional (and imagined) escapade through Europe.

Originally written as Vogel's response to the 1988 death of her brother Carl, who died from complications due to AIDS, the play takes place in Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, where Carl (Alexis de la Rosa '19) has a terminal illness, and Anna (Madeleine Russell '19) imagines a trip the two never took. This fantasy of Anna's takes the audience with her and Carl on a quest for a cure — but instead of her brother being the one ill, it is Anna. In her fantasy, she suffers from the fictional and terminal ATD (Acquired Toilet Disease), which she is said to have contracted by using the bathrooms at the elementary school she teaches at.

On this quest, Anna is driven by the hedonistic pleasures of museums, luxurious brunches and casual sex with as many men as possible. Assisting the pair on their journey is the mysterious Third Man (Kevin Collins '20 and Ryan Kirby '22) who takes up many roles in the play, from a lust-driven waiter in Paris, to a mad Viennese doctor who swears to cure ATD by having his patients drink urine.

The play explores how the pair's European idyll is broken by Carl's death and the tragic revelation that the entire play was simply Anna's valiant fantasy to keep alive her brother's spirit, when she could not save his life. Their final dance, the Baltimore waltz, was danced under a disco ball, a true symbol of the times.

The production's choice of music sets the play in a particular space in time. From ABBA to Dutch and German tunes, the songs evoke the experience of the siblings' lives in the '80s and their romp through Europe.

Forty years later, the themes in the play remain relevant. "I was surprised to learn about how little people on the campus knew about the AIDS crisis and the scale of the Act Up movement," Masha Makutonina '21, who stage managed the play, said, "This play sheds light on how important it is to not only realize the tragedies of the past, but also give a voice to communities that are deeply hurt and are continued to be targeted even today."

"The tragedy of losing someone close to you is a theme that is very universal," Makutonina added.

Although there were only four actors on stage, this production had a large team behind it. In addition to Russell, de la Rosa, Collins and Kirby, the production team was comprised of director Medeiros, lighting designer Stephen Chen '19.5, stage manager Masha Makutonina '21 and assistant stage manager James Peacock '21 and dramaturg Travis Sanderson '19.

Because the production was faculty directed, it was able to realize the "wildest of ideas," said Makutonina. Sanderson presented the cast and crew with research background on the AIDS epidemic through findings and the Act Up documentary, and the production team chose their props, costumes and lighting design based on references of the book from the film noir, "Third Man."

"Even the smallest details, such as the hats worn by the Third Man, and the pillows on set, had to be exactly right," Makutonina said.

Recalling the moments spent in the rehearsal room with his crew, Director Medeiros said that the play has given him two very special gifts: "a destination for my affections and the realization that I must be an alchemist of my own losses."

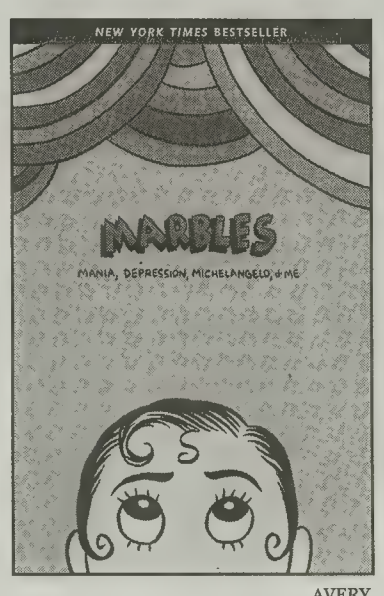
The Librarian Is In

By KATRINA SPENCER
Senior Columnist

Literatures & Cultures Librarian Katrina Spencer is liaison to the Anderson Freeman Center, the Arabic Department, the Comparative Literature Program, the Gender, Sexuality & Feminist Studies (GSFS) Program, the Language Schools, the Linguistics Program and the Department of Luso-Hispanic Studies.

"Marbles: Mania, Depression, Michelangelo & Me"

Ellen Forney, 2012



AVERY

While it is not directly referenced in the book, I feel certain that the title of this graphic memoir refers to the common parlance phrase we use, "to lose one's marbles." It's a euphemism used to avoid saying things like "schizophrenic episode," "hormonal imbalance," "depression," "suicidal thoughts" and many others that carry *weighty* stigmas and may seem scary or overly clinical when rendered bare. Herein, cartoonist Ellen Forney bravely chronicles a journey spanning almost 4 years of attempting to manage her bipolar disorder with a combination of medications, exercise and a human support system after receiving her diagnosis.

Ellen fears how her parents might receive her diagnosis, what her friends will think and also how her creative bursts of energy will be impacted if she treats herself with mood stabilizers. After all, there are certain characteristics resulting from her disorder that she rather enjoys.

However, she knows both what it is to be intensely "up" and what it means to be miserably "down." As Ellen regularly meets with a psychiatrist to try and find the right dose of lithium, Tegretol, Klonapin, Depakote, Zyprexa and other prescribed drugs, she draws cartoons that attempt to depict what is happening in her mind and in her heart.

The result is this black and white tome that is perhaps appropriately "uneven." At the beginning of the work, Ellen shares vignettes from her life in which she gets a tattoo, has her 30th birthday party with drag queen attendants and stages a nude photo shoot in a swimming pool locker room.

In other moments, she visits a library and learns about other artists whose lives seem to suggest destabilized emotional and hormonal states.

And in others, she painstakingly documents the impact of each drug and how its side effects differ from others so she can share this information with her psychiatrist.

Overall, the work is certainly brave, needed and makes efforts to mirror her experience closely.

On a critical note, I would *not* say the work is "beautifully drawn" or particularly artful. It feels like a wealth of amateur sketches that happen to engage a compellingly original storyline.

How many graphic novels can you name that address a personal narrative of coping with bipolar disorder? Not many, I suspect. What I love about this work is that Forney teaches a broader audience about bipolar disorder, revealing that one can be high functioning and have a mood disorder; one can be hesitant for a variety of reasons to disclose their diagnosis with loved ones; and while one can value his/her/their creativity, they can still embark on a successful journey of learning to manage it.

Ultimately, I must ask myself, "What does a reader need from this work and does it deliver?" I think readers with and without the disorder need to know that it is okay to fear change, mind-altering prescription drugs and how a disorder can impact the self and relationships. Forney certainly gives us that.

For other works like this, see Allie Brosh's "Hyperbole and a Half: Unfortunate Situations," "Flawed Coping Mechanisms, Mayhem, and Other Things That Happened," a graphic narrative work that is a memoir and written by an author who experiences depression or Fabien Toulmé's "Ce n'est pas toi que j'attendais," another memoir written by an author whose daughter was born with Down's Syndrome which leads to developmental, emotional and cognitive disabilities. "El Deafo" by Cece Bell is another graphic memoir that discusses hearing impairment.

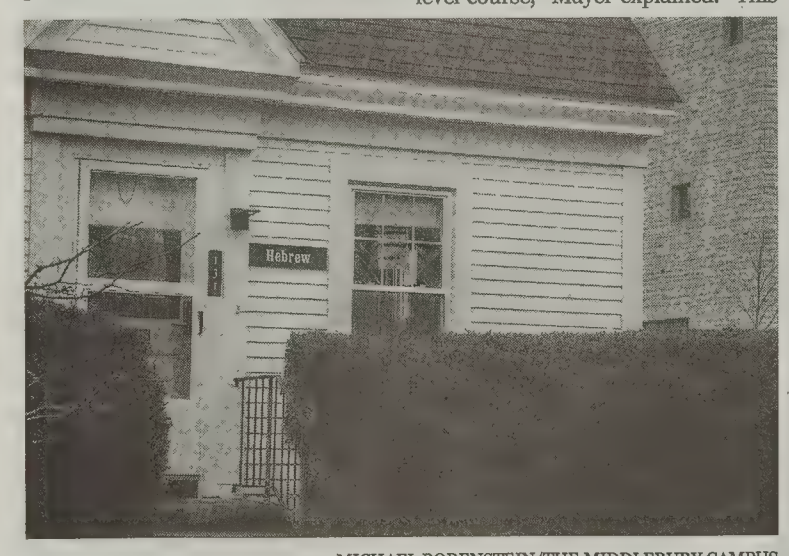
Hebrew Program Faces Faculty Changes, Video-Conferenced Classes

Continued from page 1

the college to hire more Hebrew professors and advocated the importance of Hebrew studies, both linguistically and culturally, for Jewish students on campus.

"Middlebury is an academic institution; this title implies a commitment to academic excellence above all else and a responsibility to make the campus inclusive to all students," the board wrote. "Refusing to fill this position in the Hebrew Department would be a failure on both counts."

But although the op-ed said the reductions would "effectively end the Hebrew Department on this campus," the college insists that the program will continue through its beginner-level Hebrew course offerings taught by a teaching fellow, who is scheduled to leave after next year, and through indeterminate alternative advanced language studies and video conference classes.



MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

The Hebrew House behind the Davis Family Library on Franklin Street.

The Hebrew program has always had one FTE with a three-year appointment, meaning that the sole Hebrew professor changes every three years. The other professors, like Alasiri, are fellows, not FTEs. Mayer believes that this lack of continuity has hurt the program.

Each semester, the Hebrew program offers one 100-level introductory Hebrew language course, taught by the teaching fellow, and one or two intermediate and advanced Hebrew language courses at the 300, 400 and 500 levels, taught by Aloni. It also offers cross-listed courses about Hebrew culture and history, taught in English by Israel Institute Teaching Fellow Zohar Gazit.

The teaching fellow will continue teaching the introductory courses next Fall. The higher-level Hebrew language courses are listed in the Fall 2019 catalogue, but the professors teaching the courses remain unlisted. As it currently stands, these classes will be taught online through the video conferencing software Zoom, through which students will video conference with professors at other colleges.

300 and 500-level courses will no longer be available.

"People wishing to take advanced Hebrew will need to be in the one 400 level course," Mayer explained. "This means that some students will simply have to stop their Hebrew education."

Currently, students can minor in Classical or Modern Hebrew, as well as Jewish Studies. They can also make Hebrew their primary or secondary language in an International and Global Studies (IGS) Middle East major, or can integrate the language into a Comparative Literature or Religion major.

The new cutbacks will make these courses of study more difficult. The Hillel op-ed expressed concern for students currently planning to minor in or study Hebrew and highlighted the importance of maintaining Hebrew as a language option in the IGS Middle East major. In the absence of Hebrew, the major will now require the study of Arabic, which Mayer believes limits the Middle Eastern perspective that the study of Hebrew offers. When IGS Middle Eastern Studies was created in 2004, it was conceived of as a track that would include both Arabic and Hebrew.

"It is difficult to think of Middle Eastern conflicts while exposing students to one language only, providing a limited opportunity, at best, for those who would like to get the Israeli perspective," Mayer said. "A loss of Hebrew at the undergraduate college means a loss of perspective and a narrower education for our students."

Earlier this year, the Middlebury study abroad school in Beer-Sheva, Israel was suspended, again for reasons related to low enrollment.

Advocates of the Hebrew program's continuation argue that low enrollment in Hebrew classes is not enough of a reason for its shrinking, and emphasize the cultural and academic significance of the program.

"Our argument is that you can't base the value of a class on the number of people enrolled, and that Hebrew is really important on this campus, not despite low numbers but separate from them," said Rachel Horowitz-Benoit '21, one of the authors of the op-ed and a Comparative Literature major with a focus in Hebrew Literature. Horowitz-Benoit and Mayer both argue that Hebrew is a uniquely valuable program because of its connection to Jewish cultural and religious life on campus.

Horowitz-Benoit also does not see lack of interest as the sole reason for the program's low enrollment.

"The size of the program inhibits many people who want and plan to take Hebrew from doing so," she said. "It's not necessarily a lack of interest but a lack of availability."

Since only one Hebrew class at any given level is offered in a semester and all of the upper-level classes are taught by one professor, students with an interest in taking Hebrew may not be able to because the single class time conflicts with another course. Additionally, students might not click with the teaching style of the single Hebrew professor teaching those courses.

Horowitz-Benoit and other Hillel Board members formed a committee to advocate for the program. They are collecting signatures in support of increased Hebrew programming and used the op-ed to publicize the situation. Over four weeks ago, the committee sent suggestions to President Laurie Patton, Dean of Faculty Andi Lloyd and Provost Jeff Cason. These suggestions included hiring a student employee to promote enrollment in Hebrew classes and creating a committee of students to assist in the hiring of a new faculty member so that the professor is well-suited to the students in the program. This week the committee received a response from administrators and, as of press time Tuesday, are planning to meet with Dean of Curriculum Suzanne Gurland soon to discuss their concerns.

In the meantime, administrators have suggested creative solutions to learning Hebrew at an advanced level without a professor: in addition to the integration of video conference classes, they have proposed that students attend the summer Hebrew language school.

Mayer takes issue with both of these propositions, especially the language school, which she sees as an insufficient replacement for courses, and a resource only accessible to the wealthy.

"The language schools are expensive and even if students are able to secure a full ride, they are unable to spend the summer making money that they need for the upcoming year," she pointed out. "I see this as an opportunity only for rich kids and that is not okay."

Mayer also finds the new virtual class plan problematic.

"Students do not want to pay such high tuition to just sit in front of their computers," she said. During this past Winter Term, Aloni was ill for a week and students in his class video conferenced with a professor at another university. Some students reported to Mayer that they were not satisfied with the experience, and that video conferencing does not replicate the classroom language-learning environment that Middlebury is known for.

Molly Babbin '22 was a student in the intro winter term Hebrew class. "I understood the importance of filling Professor Aloni's brief absence with the video calls, but I probably would not be satisfied with it as a long-term solution. I found that I was less engaged, as I was not sitting in a classroom and was not speaking as much Hebrew to the other students," Babbin said. "The class therefore lacked the social aspect that I have enjoyed in my in-person Hebrew classes. I understand that online classes can be effective, but it felt more difficult in a language class where I would prefer to have an immersive classroom experience."

It is unclear precisely what will happen to students who are already pursuing Hebrew studies. In an email to The Campus, Lloyd said that these students "will be working with their advisors to address any issues that arise with respect to course offerings."

According to Horowitz-Benoit, there are five students hoping to take above-300-level Hebrew next year, and several first-years who were planning to minor in the language.

For these students, the future is uncertain.

"I'd probably have to switch my major to English," Horowitz-Benoit said. "I'll graduate, but I'm in the Comparative Literature major, I've done the prerequisites for that, and this is really out of left field."

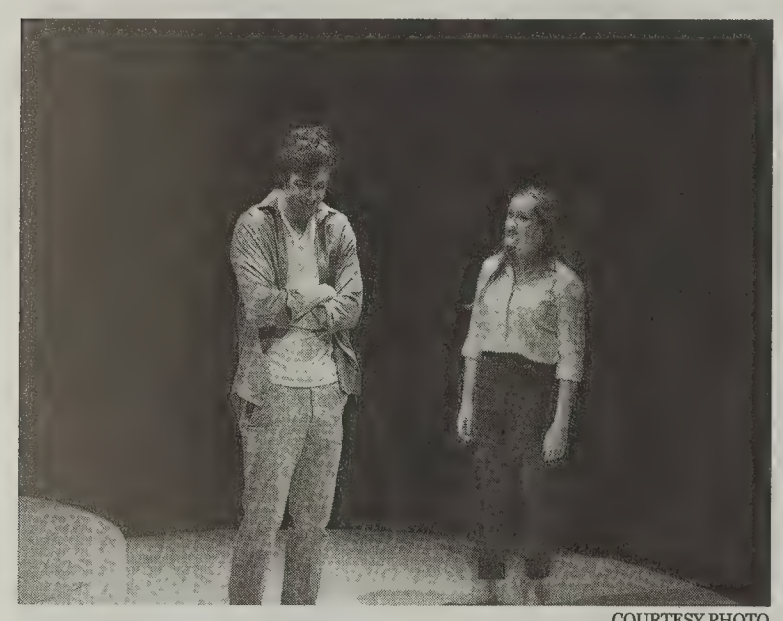
Student-Directed 'Constellations' Explores a Relationship Through Parallel Universes

By **BENJAMIN BEESE**
Staff Writer

"Constellations" is a good candidate to be the standard bearer of that contemporary idea in which science and passion dovetail, making an artist out of advanced theoretical astrophysics. This play, performed last weekend as Olivia Christie's '19 senior directing thesis, is based on a popular multiverse theory in which every possible world inspired by each variable actually exists, creating a series of parallel realities spanning every possible combination of choices ever possible (i.e. if you say yes today, there's another you elsewhere that said no.)

Written by Nick Payne and originally performed in London in 2012 followed by a critically acclaimed 2015 New York performance, "Constellations" strings together a series of non-consecutive vignettes relating the possible relationship of Marianne (Madeline Ciocci '20) and Roland (Will Koch '21). In some instances, they fall in love ... and then out of it again. Sometimes violently. In some, Roland never makes it past Marianne's awkward introductory speech about immortality and licking one's elbow, and in others she never hears his bee-anatomy themed marriage proposal. The story branches off like a tree, some possible plots growing only a few moments before ending, others stretching over several years and scenes. To describe it all here would be laborious and, I'm sure, unappreciated.

Suffice to say, the parallel-universe foundation breaks the need for typical narrative logic, allowing the play to fly across time, space and the multiverse, juxtaposing scenes and suspending information for as long as Payne decided. Thus, for example, we see Roland ask Marianne not to terminate her life early and to suffer her last few months with him while dying of brain cancer immediately before watching a surprise encounter between the two, both healthy, at a dance lesson, months or years after they've broken up. Such juxtaposition asks us what we're doing with our little time in a new and intriguing way. It asks how we're making our most trivial decisions. Those small decisions, we find, can lead to the biggest things in our lives.



COURTESY PHOTO

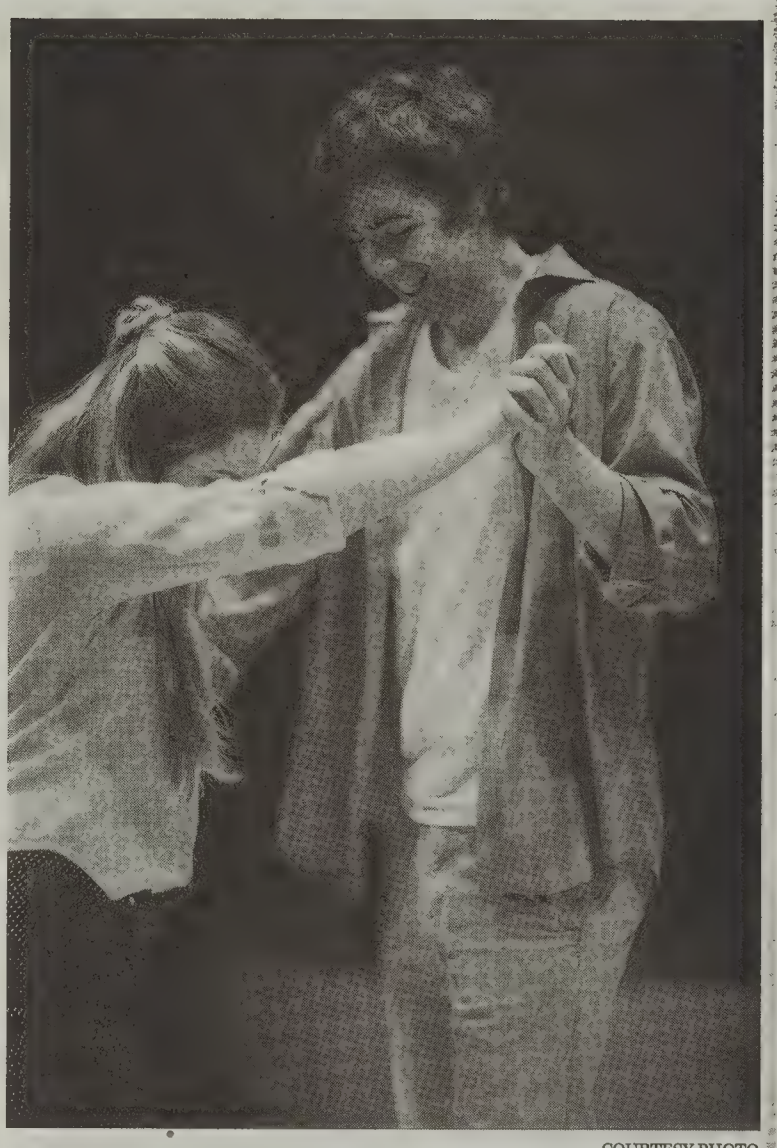
Koch and Ciocci on stage in the Hepburn Zoo.

It is a profound idea, at the base of the play, and it hit home ... sometimes. It is hard to watch someone, even in fiction, struggle with terminal brain cancer. Harder yet, to do so without wondering about one's own life and mortality. That was powerful. But much of the rest of the play was stilted, often by little things that prevented a more profound connection with the audience.

Most immediately jarring was the British accents. It was entirely unnecessary for the actors to force such an accent into their performance and, unfortunately, it was rather distracting. The accents alone made it much more difficult to connect with the characters and this play, more than most perhaps, relies on that.

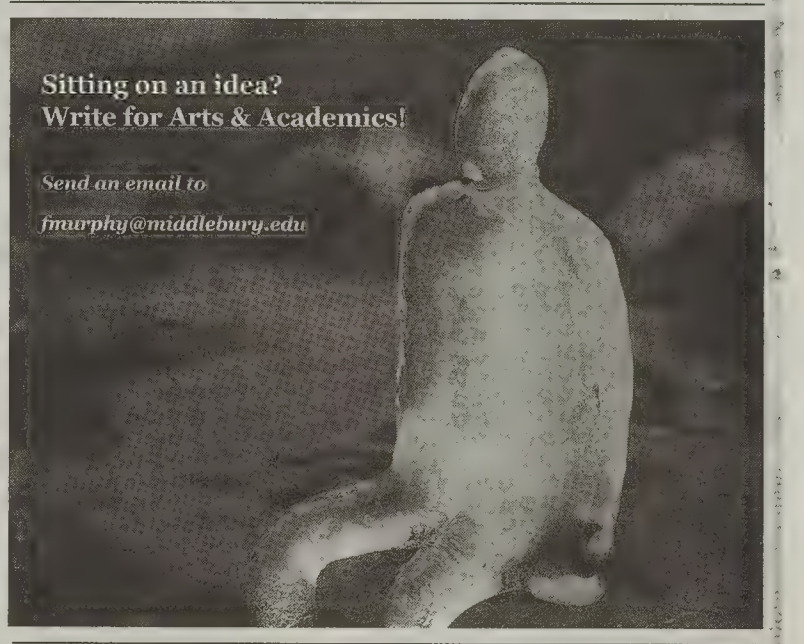
That was only the chief of several anglophile references that, realistically, should have been altered. I recall a particular joke, something about living in Wiltshire versus Mile End, that I trust would have hit its mark with Payne's original London-based audience but has little hope of doing so here in Middlebury.

Few, if any, of the members of the small audience walked out of Hepburn Zoo unmoved. It was an intriguing, challenging performance, well worth the experience of having gone.



COURTESY PHOTO

Will Koch '21 and Madeline Ciocci '20 portray a bee-keeper and astrophysicist who meet over and over again in "Constellations," a play by Nick Payne. Audiences watched hundred of possible meetings between the two in a play framed by a multiverse theory.



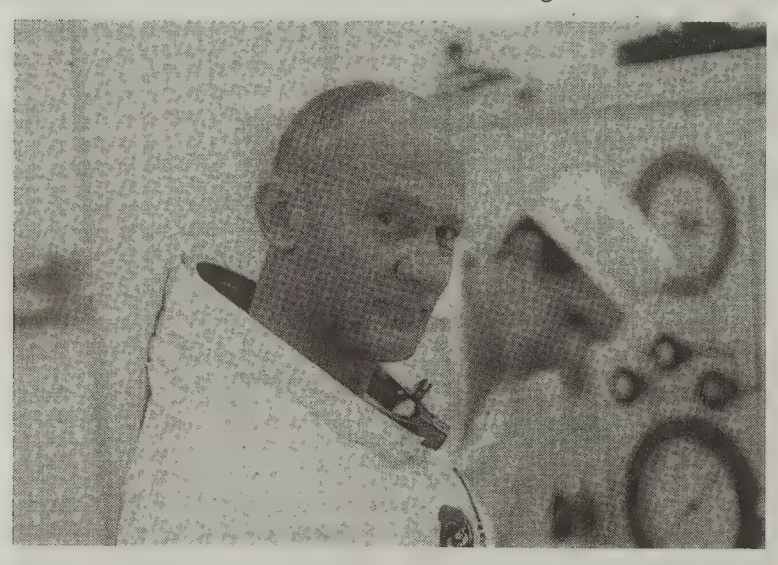
Reel Critic: 'Apollo 11'

By **SOFIA MAKAROVA**
Contributing Writer

It is a story we are all familiar with. The plot is fairly simple – three men, one moon and a comical number of American flags. In fact, it is a story we are so familiar with that we often forget the undeniable magic it holds – the type of magic that deserves to be acknowledged, told and retold.

Todd Douglas Miller's documentary "Apollo 11" does just this. Through a gripping collage of authentic footage and animated diagrams, Miller plunges you into the out-of-this-world summer of 1969.

The documentary is unusual and exciting. There is no acting, no commentary – it allows you to feel the journey for yourself through a cleverly assembled collection of video clips and voice recordings taken during the mission. The stars of the film, Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins, appear as themselves, adding to the truly genuine emotion of the film and deepening the audience's appreciation. We feel their excitement, their stress and their accomplishment. It gives the film its weight, its soul. In truth, "Apollo 11" embodies a living, breathing history textbook.



NASA

Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin, one of the three astronauts of the Apollo 11 mission.

Along with its authenticity, "Apollo 11" is deeply aesthetic. As the film careens through the crowd of onlookers, zooming in on gaudy flower caps and tailgates spread out across Florida's glistening beaches, it is hard not to feel nostalgic. When the illustrious Saturn V is rolled onto the launch pad, you see the beauty behind the grueling mechanics of the launch. The same red painted on the sides of the rocket is later seen in the stripes of the American flag as it stands on the moon.

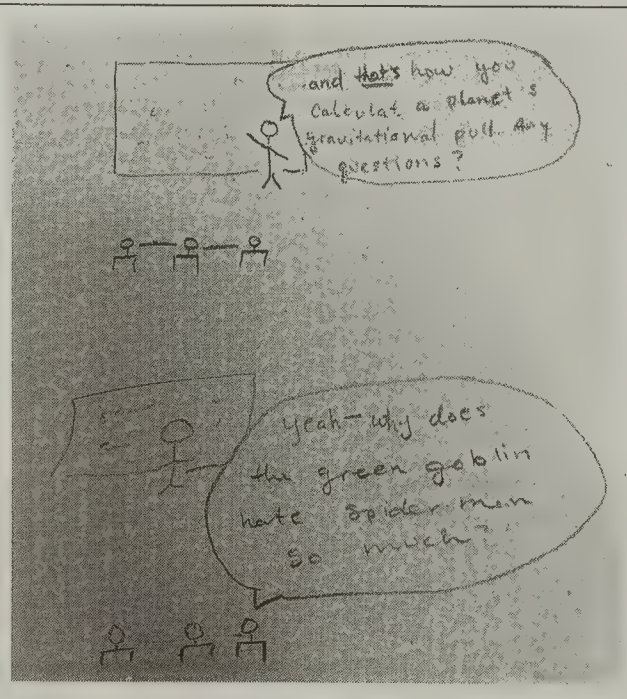
Even more impressive is the quality of the footage taken half a century ago. The colors are surprisingly fresh and the atmosphere they create is undoubtedly mesmerizing.

What's more critical yet is the documentary's ability to bring the astounding feat back down to earth. It focuses profoundly on the human aspect of the event rather than the scientific or political, even with Nixon's address to the crew. It does not cast the astronauts, scientists or technicians as anything more than they are. They were real people who did a genuinely unreal thing.

We see Armstrong, Collins and Aldrin as they are transported to the launch pad. We hear their heart rates at the start of the mission and as they land on the moon, and our hearts are pounding for them. We hold our breath as Armstrong steps off the lunar module and says those twelve words ingrained in our memories since we were children: "That's one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for mankind." But this time they sound different, they're no longer a cheesy cliché — we can feel them in our bones.

Suddenly the story we thought we knew so well is washed in an entirely new light. You feel as if you yourself have been part of the mission control, the astronauts and the technicians who created history in a matter of eight days. Towards the end of the film as our heroes are flying back home, the camera zooms past a sea of white coated scientists, technicians and mechanics. It is a moment of pride, not just for the nation which put the first man on earth, but for the entire human race. We did that. We are capable of exploring a world beyond our own, and in a time when we are questioning the capacity of human unity and achievement, this movie comes as breath of fresh air.

Whether it is the long-lost footage finally resurfaced, the thrilling symphonic soundtrack or simply the story itself, "Apollo 11" restores a sense of wonder to a somewhat outdated topic. If you have seen "First Man" or any other interpretation of the mission, this film is sure to eclipse the rest. In the words of Marvin Gaye — ain't nothing like the real thing.


and that's how you calculate a planet's gravitational pull. Any questions?
yeah- why does the green goblin hate spiderman so much?

FINNE MURPHY

SARAH FAGAN

DON'T MISS THIS

Spring Student Symposium

We invite all members of the Middlebury College community, guests, and members of the public as we celebrate the academic and creative endeavors of Middlebury students. A full schedule can be found at go/symposium.

Friday, April 12, 9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. McCardell Bicentennial Hall

Hirschfield International Film Series: Ash is Purest White

In this 2018 Chinese drama directed by Jia Zhangke, Qiao is in love with Bin, a local mobster. During a fight between rival gangs, she fires a gun to protect him. Qiao gets five years in prison for this act of loyalty. Upon her release, she goes looking for Bin to pick up where they left off.

Saturday 4/13 at 3 and 8 p.m. Dana Auditorium

Junya Iwata '19 Piano Recital: The Finale

Junya Iwata '19, a piano student of Diana Fanning, will perform a solo piano recital—a culmination of his independent study work. The program includes works by Debussy, Schubert and Chopin. A Department of Music event. Free.

Saturday, April 13, 8:00 p.m. Robison Hall

Get a head start on what comes next.

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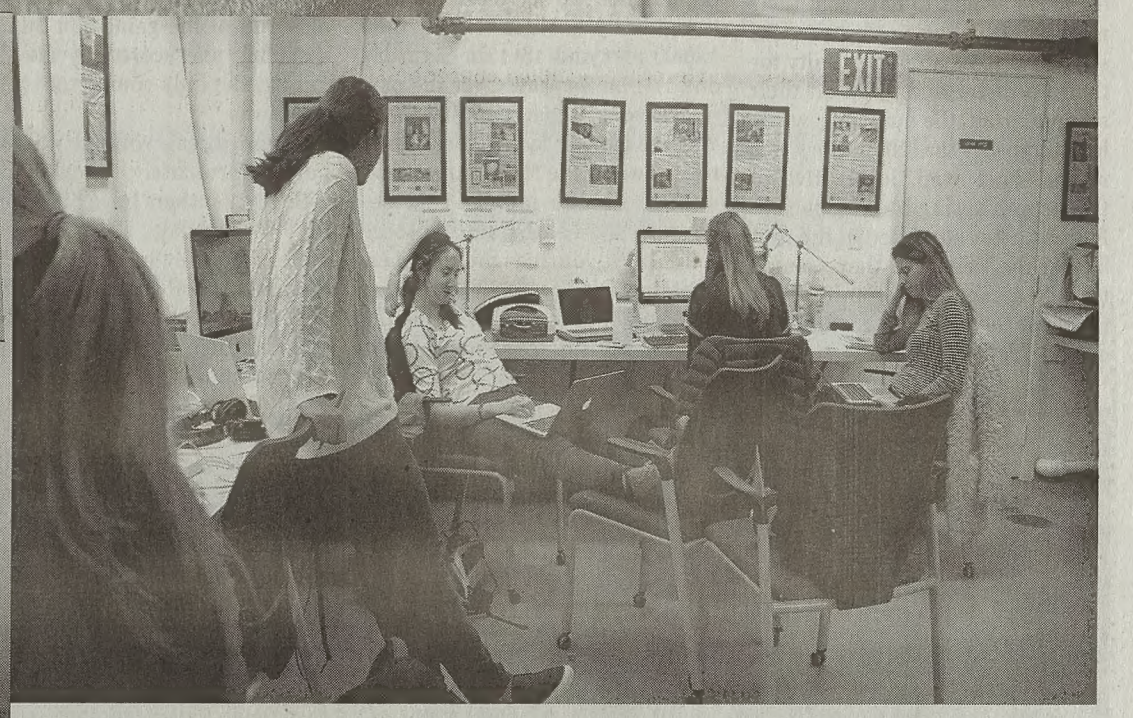

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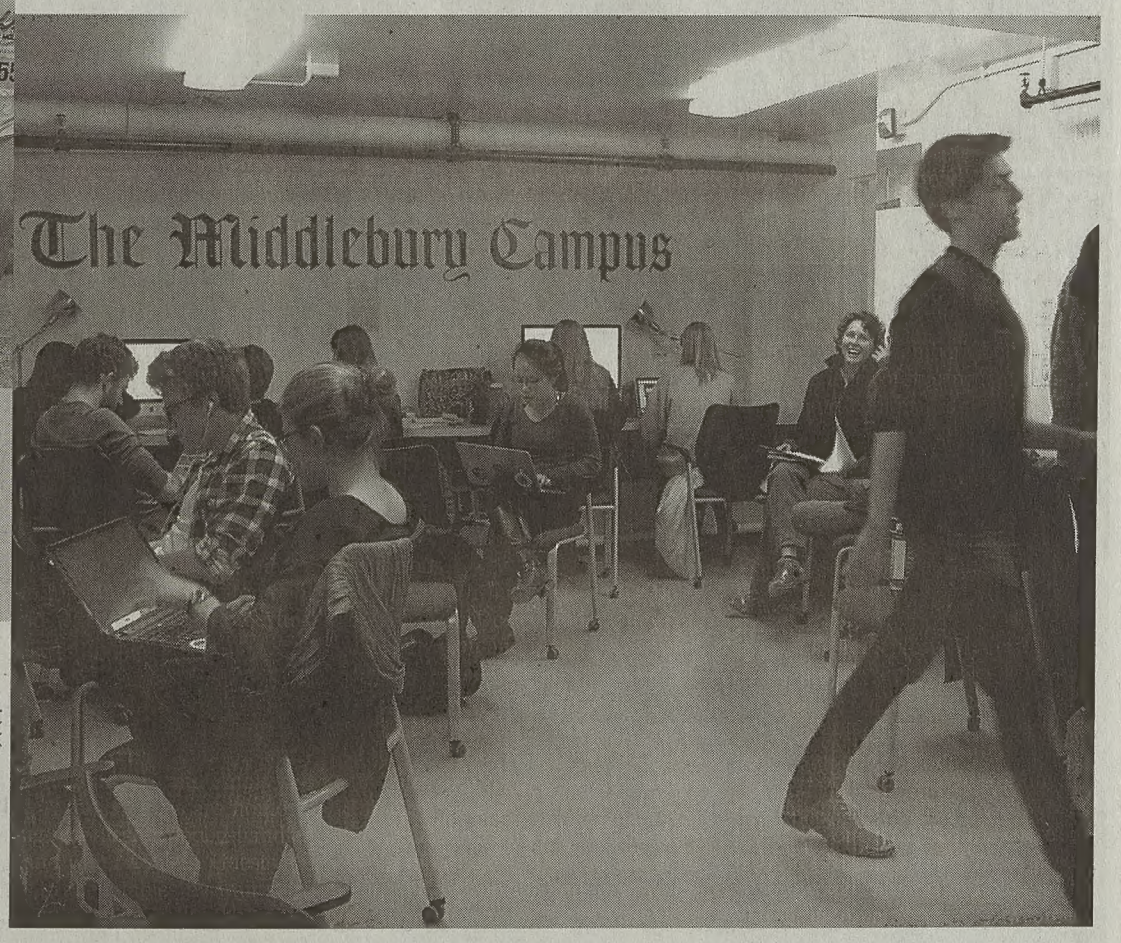

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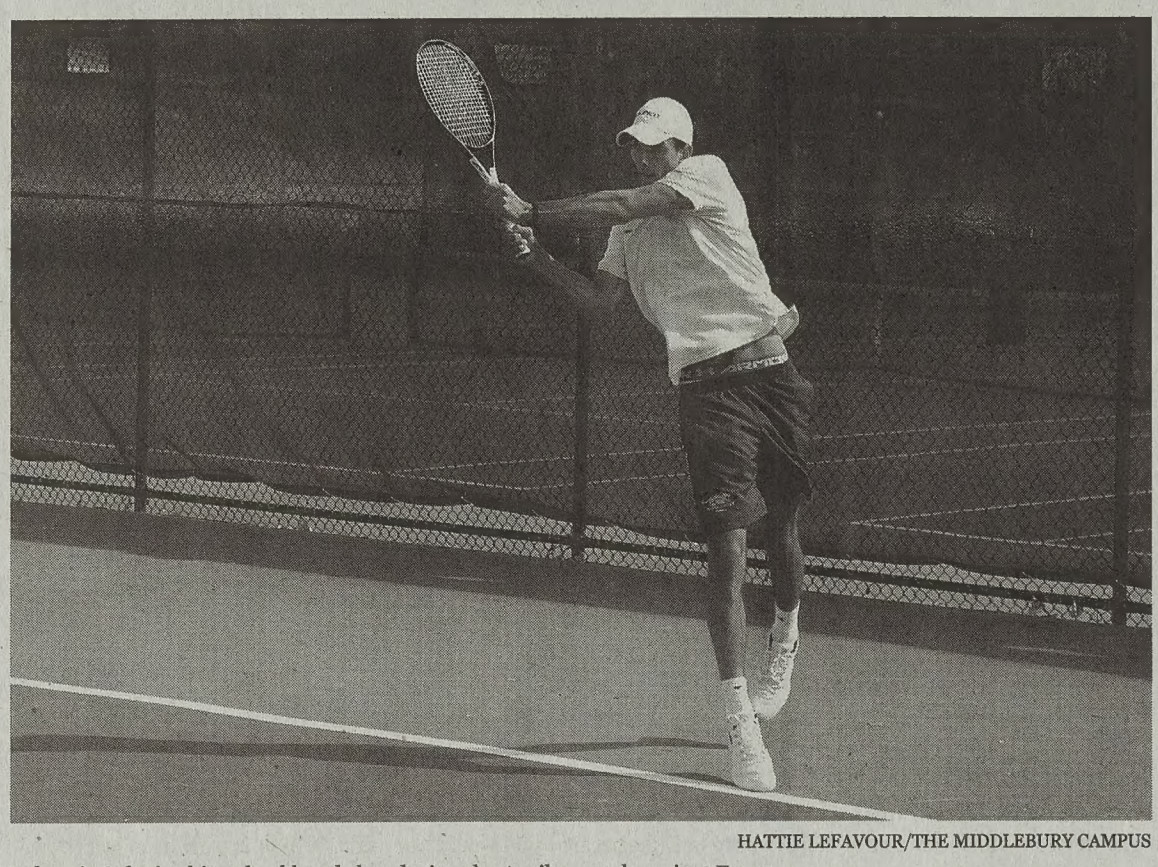
Men's Tennis Struggles Over Weekend, Goes 1-2

By JACK KAGAN
Senior Writer



HATTIE LEFAVOUR/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Lubomir Cuba '19 hits a backhand shot during the April 7 match against Emory.

After starting the season 7-0, the Panthers are coming off of a tough stretch, winning two matches and losing five since March 25. This past weekend the Panthers fell to steadily improving No. 7 Wesleyan and No. 3 Emory, each by a score of 6-3.

The No. 2 ranked Panthers started off uncharacteristically against No. 7 Wesleyan with a 1-2 deficit after doubles. The No. 1 and No. 2 doubles teams both lost just their third matches of the season. The Cardinals bested the Panthers in singles with four wins despite senior captain Noah Farrell's dominant victory over Cardinal first-year standout from Norway, Peter Anker.

Despite the upset loss, the Panthers had a quick turnaround with Connecticut College and Emory ready for a Sunday afternoon matchup. Middlebury rested their starters and breezed past the Camels in preparation for the No. 3 Eagles.

The Panthers' doubles corps started off the match with an unusual 0-3 line. The Eagles' doubles teams have been a bright point of their season, with none of their teams having lost more than three matches. Still, Panthers Coach Bob Hansen adds, "Our doubles was disappointing this weekend but we will work to lift our level in this area." Junior Weston Brach echoed the sentiment, saying, "Going down 0-3 after doubles definitely wasn't the plan...We knew we would have to come up with a special singles effort, and unfortunately we couldn't get it done this time."

Even so, the top of the singles ladder for the Panthers made a formidable effort. Farrell was flawless again with a 6-1 6-1 victory, pushing him to 8-3 on the spring. Of Farrell, Hansen said, "[He] was sensational in singles this weekend. He was locked in similar to the level of his sophomore season when he was the top-ranked player in the country."

Hansen had similar praise for Lubomir Cuba '19. As he cruised by Eagles Jonathan Jemison '19, who is 11-2 on the spring, Hansen notes that Cuba, "broke out of his singles funk with a brilliant performance against Emory and one of the very best players in the country in dominating form."

With the rock-solid top three, the Panthers are still looking for the right combination down the ladder, as Nate Eazor '21 and Alex Vanezis '20 split time at #6 singles this past weekend. Hansen says the team is, "still looking for a strong player at six singles and between [Vanezis] and [Eazor] we should be very competitive...if either takes a jump."

Finding the right guys for the job might be what the Panthers need to bounce back as conference play ramps up this weekend against No. 17 Tufts and No. 6 Williams. Dropping the match to No. 7 Wesleyan does not bode well for this weekend against perennial rival Williams. As Hansen puts it, "As I said at the beginning of the season, we have the potential to be one of the top teams in the country but could also end up fifth in our conference if we don't tighten things up."

Men's Lacrosse Splits NESCAC Play, Beats Springfield

By BOBBY SULLIVAN
Staff Writer

After a successful midweek game against conference foe, Hamilton, the Middlebury Panthers looked to keep their win streak alive against the Colby Mules this past Saturday. The Panthers seemed fired up for this game right from the start, with chants of "What up, Blue!" echoing throughout Youngman Field. After a back-and-forth game, with great plays coming from both sides, Colby outlasted the Panthers by a score of 14-12. The Panthers still remain ahead of the Mules in the NESCAC standings but drop to 4-6 on the year.

In the first quarter, the Mules put a score on the books first. However, Middlebury quickly rebounded with two shots coming from Zeke Emerson '20 and up-and-coming star, Will Brossman. Colby was able to settle in for the rest of the quarter, firing back three goals to lead 4-2 at the end of 15 minutes.

After a harsh cross-checking penalty committed by Colby at the start of the second, freshman phenom, Tyler Forbes, scored a man-up goal at the 9:28 mark. Colby responded quickly but then committed yet another penalty to put Middlebury at the advantage. For the next five minutes, it was all Middlebury. Three goals came from three different players, putting the Panthers up 6-5 and giving them a little momentum. However, a lackluster penalty by Alex Farley at the 4:22 mark of the second gave Colby the opportunity to rally off three goals and regain the lead 8-6. In the last seconds of the half, A.J Kucinski fired a shot on goal, assisted by Brossman, to put the Panthers within one.

In the third, the Panthers again had control of the entire quarter. Colby scored first, but the home team was able to respond with three goals of their own. Forbes tallied another on an outstanding shot, meanwhile the upperclassmen on the team contributed their own. At the 2:18 mark in the third quarter, the two teams were tied. In the 4th, the Panthers took a quick lead. Unfortunately, their defense seemed to lose some traction and Colby answered by scoring 4 of the next 5 goals. With a minute left to go in the game, Middlebury was down three until Chase Goree '20 found the net. However, the deficit was too much to overcome. Colby scored again as the time ran down.

Despite a strong effort, the Panthers fell to 3-4 in conference play. They look to take on Trinity this upcoming weekend at home in a pivotal NESCAC game. With a win, the Panthers can move towards the top of the tightly contested pack as they soon approach the end of April and playoff season.

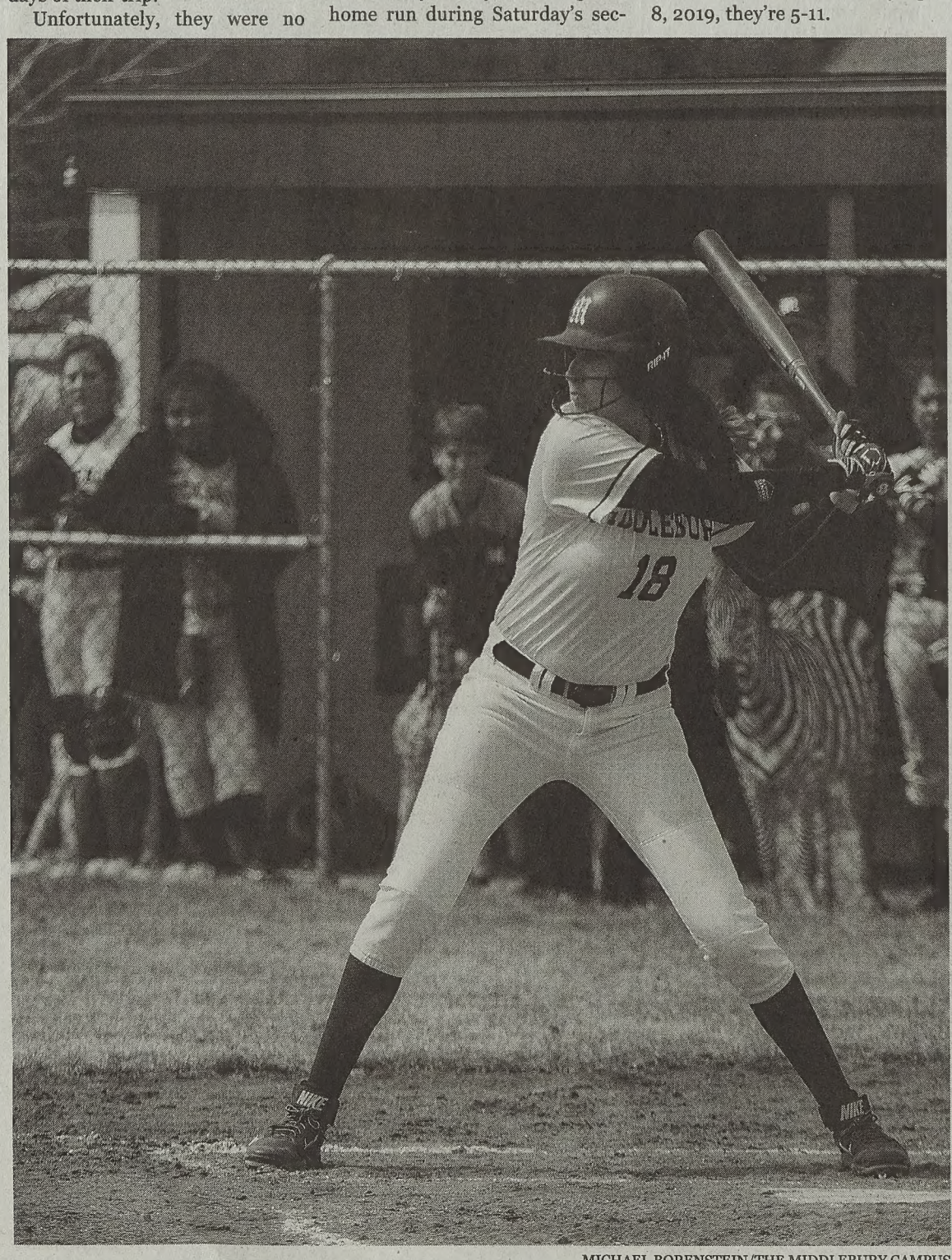
Softball Can't Get a Break

By MAX PADILLA
Photo Editor

The Panthers started off the season strong, winning their first four games. Since then, however, they seemed to have lost their momentum. Spring break was supposed to be an opportunity for them to thrive and build off their success from the previous week, but it appears that their glory was rather short-lived, losing five of their seven spring break games in Florida. They struggled in the first half of the week, but they seemed to pull it together, winning two-thirds of the games in the last few days of their trip.

Unfortunately, they were no more successful this weekend against Williams, who is undefeated in the conference. Williams has managed to beat Middlebury in every softball game that the schools have played against each other since 2015. Williams beat the girls by a wider margin than usual, 10-1 and 18-1 on Saturday and 11-1 on Sunday. Over the past few seasons, it has been typical for Williams to win by no more than 6 runs. Two of the three games only went to the 5th inning. That being said, the Panthers made some solid plays during their games. Captain Liza Tarr '19 had a great weekend; she brought home the team's only run by slamming in a home run during Saturday's second game, and on Sunday, she stopped the Ephs from stealing bases. Rookie Sophia Marlino continues establish herself as an asset to the Panthers. On Saturday morning, her deep double allowed Sophie Bolinger '22 to score the only run of the game. On Sunday morning, she scored in the first inning, the only completed run of the game.

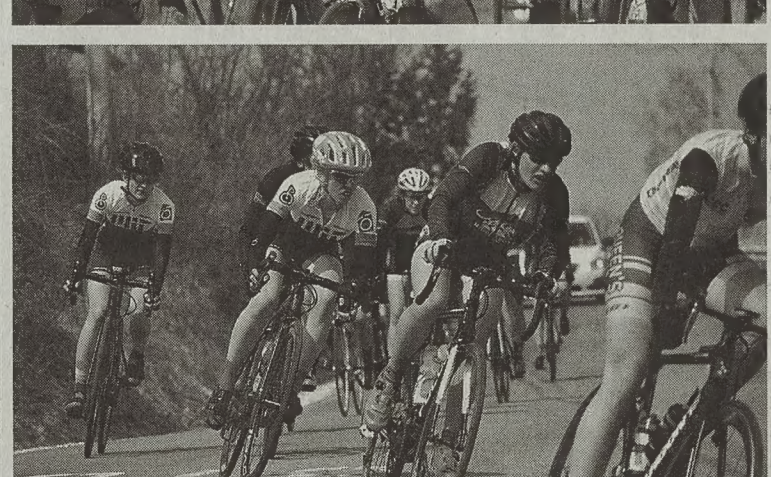
Before break softball was 4-0, but unfortunately, they're now 6-8. The Panthers have high hopes for Wednesday against Keene State, who they haven't played in the past several years. Keene State doesn't seem to be having the best season either, as of Monday April 8, 2019, they're 5-11.



MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Melanie Mandell '20 has already hit two home runs and drove in 13 RBIs this season.

Cycling Club Hosts Weybridge Road Race



BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

The Middlebury Cycling Club conquers the streets of Addison County.

By BENJY RENTON
Senior Sports Editor

The Middlebury Cycling Club hosted its first Eastern Collegiate Cycling Conference (ECCC) race in recent history, with over 200 cyclists from schools around the Northeast descending upon the Champlain Valley for a day of racing along Vermont's picturesque country roads. This race was the second in a weekend of two races called L'Enfer du Nord; the Weybridge Road Race hosted by Middlebury followed the Dartmouth Frat Row Criterium and the Bridge to Ridge ITT. The Middlebury course consisted of a 14-mile loop with 1,000 feet of climbing per lap; cyclists raced through the towns of Middlebury, Cornwall, Weybridge and New Haven. Races ranged in distance from 73 miles (Men's A) to 31 miles (Women's C/D).

Middlebury placed eighth in the ECC's overall rankings, behind the University of Vermont. The team was led by Will Greene '19 placing 30th in the Men's A race (completing the 73 miles in 3:26:03) and Katie Aman '19 placing second in the Women's A, with a time of 3:24:38 over the 59-mile course. Following the club's two leaders, Virginie Caspard placed first in the Women's B, Warren Galloway placed 27th in the Men's C and Camryn Kluetmeier '21.5 placed fourth in the Women's C. Eight other Middlebury cyclists rounded out the pack.

Ben Glass '20.5, one of the event's organizers and a member of the Cycling Club, described the hard work put into the race — getting town permits, soliciting the assistance of the Addison County Sheriff and Middlebury Regional EMS, gathering volunteers and setting up the course. "Because we had never done anything like this before, we were basically building everything from the ground up," he said.

Glass was impressed with the team's results. "In general, we've had a lot of good results this season, which is why we're floating at the top of the leaderboards. And that's with cycling giants like Queen's and MIT, who basically have a monopoly over the league standings, just by pure numbers and talent," he said.

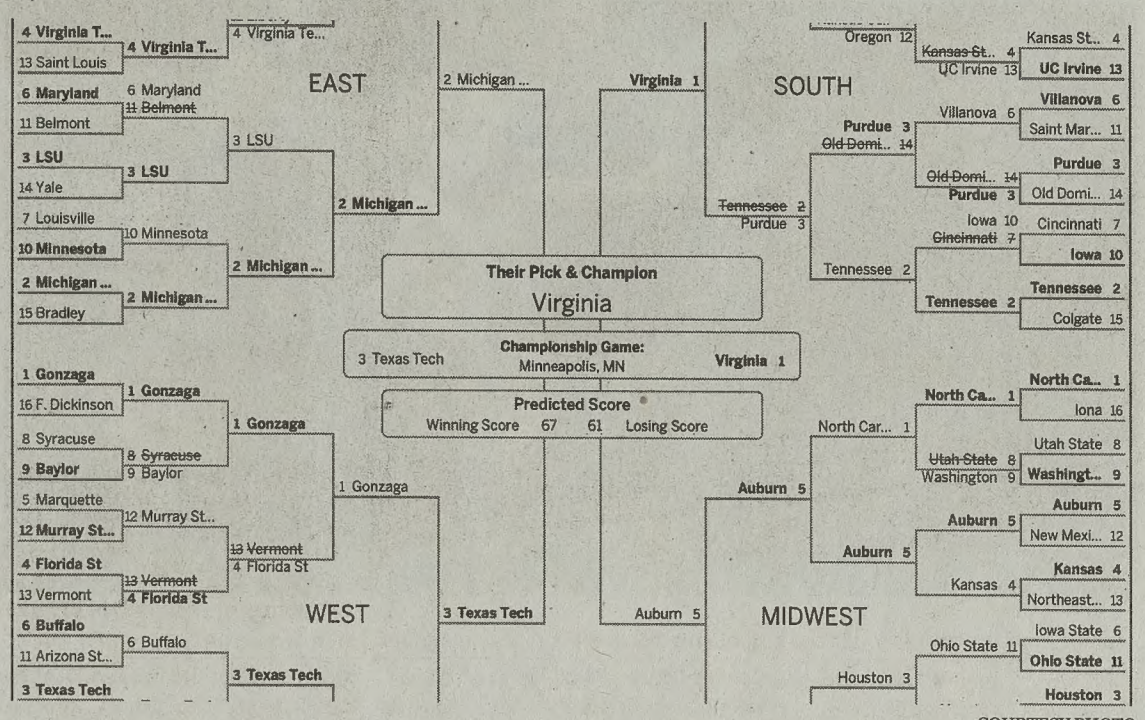
Aman, the club's president, hopes to make a Middlebury-hosted road race a tradition. "Everyone stepped up to both pitch in with volunteering efforts and stepping up in their individual races," she said. "Both during and after the event, we received many great compliments from other teams on how fantastic our course was for the race."

Middlebury Goes Mad for March Madness

By ERIN KELLY
Sports Editor

As you probably know, NCAA March Madness is officially over as Virginia beat Texas Tech 85-77 on Monday night. If you're looking for a technical recap of the game, look elsewhere. We here on The Campus will leave the hard-hitting Division I reporting to the professionals because we know what our readers are really craving: the results of the 2019 MiddMadness school-wide bracket.

Coming in first with an incredibly strong showing was Abraham Beningson '21, who will receive $150 in his declining balance. Beningson finished with 1710 points, a full 230 points ahead of the second place finisher. Beningson correctly predicted each team that made it to the Final Four and picked Virginia to win it all against Texas Tech, 67-61. He placed 164th overall among all NCAA March Madness brackets.



COURTESY PHOTO
A snapshot of Abraham Beningson's NCAA March Madness winning bracket in the school-wide bracket challenge.

When asked about his selection technique, Beningson said he did a little bit of research but mostly balanced realistic expectations with some personal bias. "I started out by picking a fair amount of upsets in the first round because those are fun to cheer for and fun to get right," Beningson said. "These were generally due to a small amount of stat research: if the team had a good defense or shot a lot of 3s, I was inclined to pick them – or for bias, like with UVM. Ultimately though, I wanted to have a good chance at picking the winner because that's worth the most points, so I went with Virginia. I couldn't go with the complete favorite in Duke because that would be boring."

Last year, Beningson used the same strategy but placed in the middle of the college's bracket, and he attributes this year's success to chance. "There's absolutely no question about it: the only reason I did this well was by being totally lucky," Beningson said. "The tournament is just so unpredictable that an infinite amount of knowledge about college basketball really isn't that much better than no knowledge at all. I'm just concerned that I've used up all my good luck for the foreseeable future."

Coming in 342nd place, in a tragic last place finish, was freshman Jake Gaughan. Despite following college basketball "fairly closely" throughout the year and doing "pretty average" in his other brackets, Gaughan finished the MiddMadness bracket with only 210 points. Gaughan predicted Vermont would take it all the way, despite their first-round loss. He told The Campus, "I always pick the Catamounts. They have three brothers [Robin, Ernie and Everett Duncan] on the team, and if that isn't enough to win a national championship, I don't know what is."

The Campus checked in with Ben Yamron, the bottom finisher in last year's Roll Pants! bracket, to see how the sophomore fared this time around. This year, Yamron finished in 333rd place, nine places higher than last year, but said he used the same selection strategy. "It is just instinct, you know?" Yamron said. "You see two teams in the matchup, and a sign hits you and you just know. You gotta go with your gut. Last year, this worked out very poorly, but this year I improved, so if I keep going with the process and and keep my eye on the prize, by senior year I'll have a bracket I can be proud of." By 2021, The Campus hopes to see Yamron crack the top 200.

Track and Field Scores at the Amherst Spring Fling

By JORDAN HOWELL
Senior Writer

Although it feels like the indoor track season ended only recently, the team is already several meets into the outdoor season. On Saturday, April 6, the team participated in the Amherst Spring Fling with impressive results.

On the team's performance at this meet, Noah Wagner-Carlberg '19 said, "Overall this weekend was a very exciting one for Midd Track and Field. The Amherst Spring Fling saw a lot of remarkable performances from our athletes, indicative of our growth over the course of the season and of the work we put in over spring break in San Diego. Most notably we saw terrific marks from both male and female athletes in nearly every field event, including season's bests and personal bests."

The women were able to capture second place in a total field of seven teams by obtaining 90 points. There were many crucial contributors to these points. Lucy Lang '19 came in first in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:19.86. Emily Bulczynski '22 achieved second place in the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 1:08.28. In the pole vault event, Kreager Taber '19, Molly Colwell '20, and Leah Granger '22 were able to get first, second, and fourth respectively. Taber vaulted 3.40 meters, Colwell 3.19 meters, and Granger 2.80 meters. In the long jump event, Alex Cook '20 jumped 5.51 meters, Simone Ameer '21 jumped 5.31 meters, and Jackie Topping '22 jumped 5.26 meters. They captured the first three places in the event. It is also important to note that Helene Rowland '20 placed first in shot put, Emily Ray '20 came in first in the discus throw, and Rebecca Gorman '20 ranked first in the javelin throw.

The men were able to get second place in a total field of six teams with 100.50 points. Key contributors included Nick Hendrix '20 in 200 meter dash where a time of 22.01 pushed him to first place. Jonathan Fisher '20 got a time of 56.87 to get first in the 400-meter hurdle. The "A" team, composed of Wagner-Carlberg, Hendrix, Matthew Durst '21, Conor Banky '19 and Henry Tatum '21, captured second in the 4x100 relay. In high jump, Fisher and Francis Price '22 were able to capture third place and a tie for fourth in this event respectively. Nathaniel Klein '21, Zack Sieb '21 and James Caprio '21 obtained the first three places in shot put. Klein threw 14.65 meters, Sieb threw 13.25 meters, and Caprio threw 12.63 meters. Sieb and Caprio also happened to get the first two places respectively in the discus throw. Minhaj Rahman '19 participated in the hammer throw and placed first with a throw of 55.75 meters.

Fisher mentioned, "I was happy to get a few good jumps in, and I'm proud of my teammate Tim DeLorenzo for clearing 6'0.75" in his first collegiate outdoor meet. The 400 hurdles are always a difficult event, and I've had some trouble getting my feet under me after coming back from abroad. I feel like this race was definitely a step in the right direction and gives me momentum going into next week's meet."

During this early part of the season, the Panthers have to make sure to work hard to prepare for the later championship meets.

"As with any year of Midd Track and Field, NESCACs is by far the most anticipated competition of the season, and there is already a lot of hype surrounding the event this year," Wagner-Carlberg mentioned.

Ray adds, "We always want to win NESCACs, but this year the men are looking to keep their title, while the women's team wants to come out stronger than ever and beat Tufts and Williams at NESCACs. We're hosting NESCACs this year at Middlebury, so we're even more determined to have fun and push ourselves to compete at the highest level."

With the team continuing to strive towards their goals, they will next compete at the Silfen Invitational on both Friday, April 12 and Saturday April 13.

"A lot of the team did not compete in Amherst, so we're excited to prepare for the Silfen Invitational at Connecticut College," said Ray. "It's looking like a big meet with a lot of good competitors, which will be good preparation in the month before NESCACs."

Fisher adds, "The Silfen Invitational at Conn College is shaping up to be an intense meet. It will feature many of the top NESCAC teams, who will be looking to get some good times and distances for the bigger meets coming up in 3-4 weeks. It should be a good preview for the NESCAC championship meet at Middlebury on April 27. Hopefully we'll be able to continue our hot streak and put together more impressive performances."

College Hosts Second Annual Women in Tennis Together Workshop

By MIGUEL ESPINOSA
Sports Editor

While the length of tennis games are confined to sets and matches, its benefits last over the course of a lifetime. On Saturday, April 6, the United States Tennis Association (USTA) hosted an on-campus, one-day workshop open to girls in grades nine through twelve. The workshop, which is part of the USTA's Women in Tennis Together series, was designed to give girls specialized tennis instruction and an opportunity to connect with female role models from the sport. Saturday marked the second consecutive year of Women in Tennis Together at Middlebury College. The first half of the workshop took place at the Nelson Recreation Center, while the second half took place at the Middlebury Indoor Tennis center.

The workshop began at 9 in the morning. After signing in, the girls met with players from Tennis on Campus, a volunteer student organization, as well as coaches and players from the Middlebury women's tennis team. They also managed to spectate matches between two of the best in women's tennis: a Middlebury squad ranked 5th in the country, and a Wesleyan squad ranked 6th. Around noon, they departed for the Middlebury Indoor Tennis center, where they ate lunch, practiced drills and played in matches. The girls concluded their day with discussions with female guest speakers, all whom had considerable experience playing and coaching tennis.

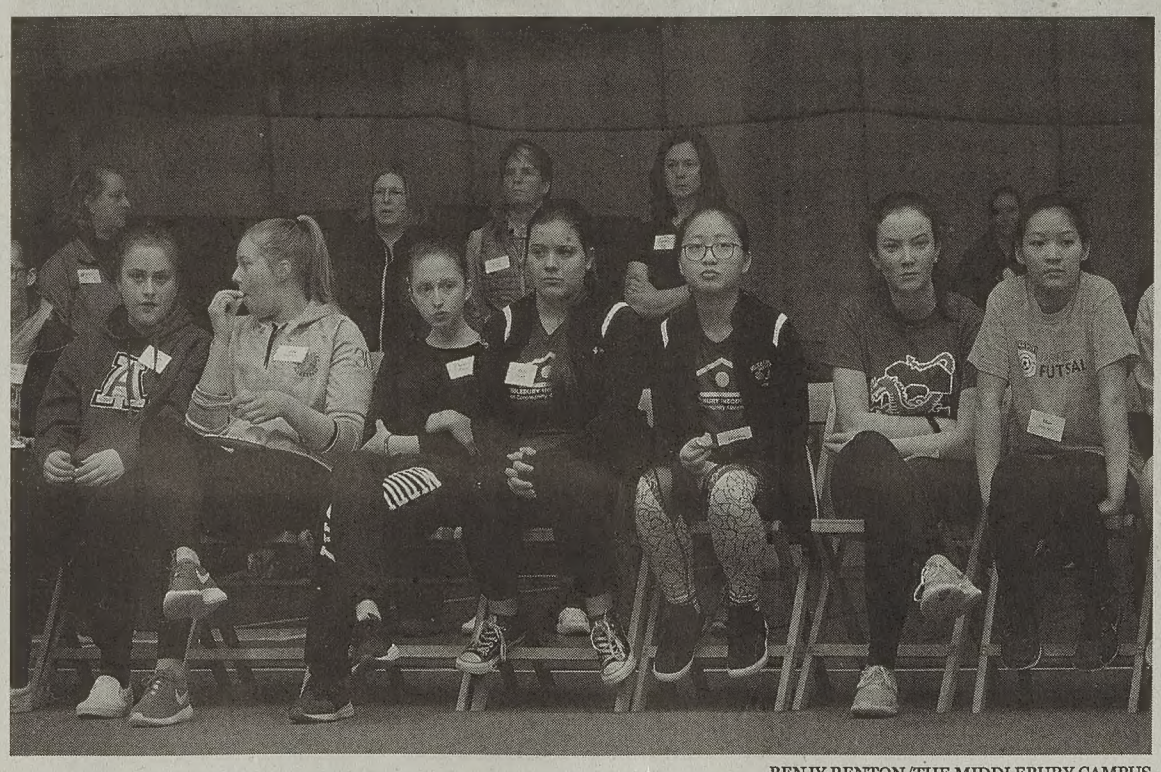
"When you're out there [playing tennis], you really can't focus on anything else, and as soon as you lose that focus, your game starts to slip," said Erin Morrison, event organizer and also a programs and communications manager at the Addison Community Athletics Foundation. "It's almost like therapy in the sense that when you're out there, you're just able to think about the game, and think about your partner."

The event's organizers, however, were thinking about things beyond tennis when considering the goals of the workshop.

"What I'm hoping that the girls take from [the workshop] is just how valuable community is, whether that be in sports or in other areas, and just seeing how valuable it can be in impacting their lives," said Morrison.

"The skills [learned from this workshop] are bigger than tennis," said event organizer Jeanne Husslen, who is also the athletic director of Burlington High School. "It's networking, communicating and meeting kids from other programs, but then also being exposed to women in leadership, and how tennis has impacted their lives."

"The girls can learn practice, goal setting, communication, dealing with emotions from joy and elation, to disappointment and failure, teamwork, discipline and preparation," said Husslen, when asked about the benefits of playing tennis. "It's a phenomenal platform for learning life skills."



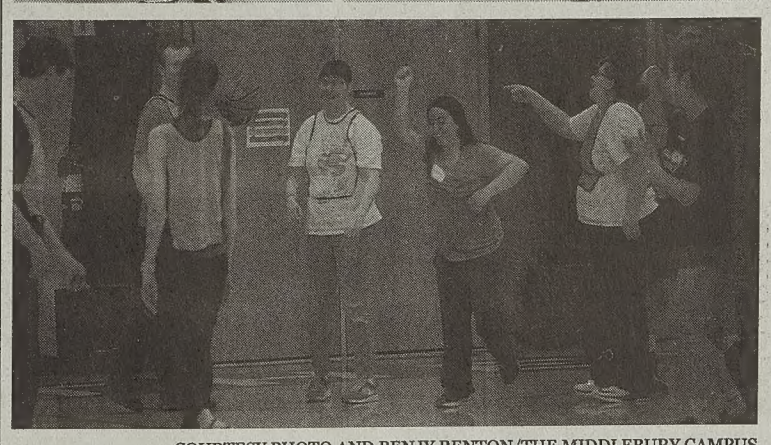
BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
High school participants in the Women in Tennis Together workshop watch as varsity women's tennis battles Wesleyan.

Photos of the Week

POND SKIM DRAWS CROWDS AT SNOW BOWL

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Ski Patrol member Octave Lepinard '19.5 pulls Kaitlyn Francis '19 and Abby Jones '19.5 at the first annual Middlebury Ski Club Pond Skim.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS HOLDS FIRST PRACTICE



COURTESY PHOTO AND BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Members of the Special Olympics club hosted their first spring basketball practice of the spring. The team meets each Sunday from 4 to 5 p.m. in Pepin Gymnasium.

Women's Tennis Crushes Weekend, Beats No. 3 Emory

By CECELIA SCHEUER
Senior Writer

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Maddi Stow '20 rushes to hit the ball during the weekend match against No. 6 Wesleyan.

The Middlebury women's tennis team wrapped up one of the most monumental weekends in Panther history on Sunday, knocking off top ranked Emory (6-3) to hand them their first loss of the season. The Panthers also edged sixth ranked Wesleyan (5-4) on Saturday to boot, taking over their hold on the No. 5 national ranking, and cruised past Connecticut College 9-0 on Sunday to top off an impressive trio of victories.

Play began on Saturday inside the Nelson Recreation Center, where the Panthers grabbed two doubles points and three singles points during their match against Wesleyan. At the No. 2 doubles position, the junior duo of Katherine Hughes and Skylar Schossberger secured an 8-2 victory over Venia Yeung and Polina Kiseleva, while the top squad of Heather Boehm '20 and Ann Martin Skelly '21 posted an 8-2 victory against Victoria Yu and Kristina Yu.

"At number one doubles, Skelly and I were pretty nervous," Boehm said. "We are usually a No. 3 or No. 2 doubles team, and this was completely unexpected for us. But we really capitalized on the opportunity, executed all of our plays that we have been working on for the past few months and saw some huge success." Boehm also noted that "the brutal morning work outs" seemed to pay off on the courts this weekend, as the team was fitter than ever.

During singles play, Boehm eased past Victoria Yu 6-2,6-0, while senior Christina Puccinelli triumphed over Kristina Yu 7-6(5), 6-3 at the third spot. At the fifth spot, Maddi Stow '20 secured the team's 4-3 lead with a 6-2, 6-4 victory over Alissa Nakamoto.

"We have a saying that 'we want to win with all 13 of us (including our coaches),' and we did that in all three of our matches this weekend," Boehm added. "Whether players were on court or cheering from the sidelines, every single member contributed to our wins over top teams in the country."

On Sunday against Emory, during what was arguably MWT's "biggest win ever," according to Boehm, the Panthers took all three points during doubles play. At the No. 2 spot, Hughes and Schossberger continued their winning streak as they clinched an 8-2 win over Emma Cartledge and Daniela Lopez. Boem and Skelly defeated Ysabel Gonzales-Rico and Defne Olcay in the top spot, while the No. 3 powerhouse duo of Puccinelli and Stow edged Christina Watson and Stephanie Taylor 8-7 (9).

In singles, at the No. 4 spot, Schossberger blanked Lauren Yoon 6-6, 6-0, while Puccinelli clinched a 6-4, 6-3 win against Olcay in the third spot. Boehm solidified the team's 6-1 lead with a 6-1,6-4 victory over Lopez at the No. 2 spot. The Eagles secured wins at the No. 1, No. 5, and No. 6 spots, but the Panthers posted three consecutive victories to make the final score of the match 6-3. With Emory knocked out of the top seed and Middlebury now ranked fifth, this historic win will propel the Panthers past a significant obstacle on their road to the national championship.

To top the weekend off, the Panthers blanked Connecticut College, dropping only seven games in total during doubles play and achieving straight set wins in each of the singles matches. In doubles, the top tandem of Boehm and Skelly won 8-1 against Mariah Warren and Brooke Scully, while Emily Bian '21 and Nora Dahl '22 secured an 8-2 victory against Allison Falvey and Stephanie Simon in the third flight. Puccinelli and Stow defeated Meredith Kenny and Skylar Morgan 8-4 in the second pot.

In singles, Stow swung past Rachel Weiss 6-0, 6-0 at the No. 4 spot, while Hughes blanked Simon at the second spot, and Schossberger cruised past Scully 6-2, 6-0 at the third spot. In the fifth flight, Bian clinched a 6-2, 6-1 victory over Morgan, while Boehm posted a 6-1, 6-2 victory against Emily Migliorini in the top position. First year Ruhi Kamdar was the final scorer for the panthers, triumphing over Paige Braithwaite 6-1, 6-2 at the bottom of the singles lineup.

Coming off of such a successful weekend, maintaining humility will certainly be a key factor in the Panthers' success. "We still understand that we need to take this season one match at a time," Puccinelli said. "We will be playing tough teams every weekend from now until the NCAA tournament and we're not going to underestimate a single one of them. We respect every team we play against and we need to take every match seriously if we're going to have a chance of going all the way this season."

Boehm also noted the importance of team trust when it comes to maintaining composure during high-stakes matches like those of this weekend. "We know that if we look to our left and right on the courts, whoever is playing next to us will do whatever they can to find a win," she said.

The Middlebury women's tennis team will return to action this Saturday when they host No.7 Tufts at 10:00am. On this current trajectory, it seems there is little that can stand in the Panthers' way.

Baseball Goes Two for Three Over the Weekend

By ISABELLA MARCUS
Staff Writer

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Brooks Carroll '20 slides into third base during the April 7 game against Plymouth State University.

The Middlebury baseball team (13-6, 2-1) improved to 13-6 on the season after splitting a double-header with Tufts University (15-4, 2-1) on Saturday, April 6, and picking up a win versus Plymouth State University (9-11, 2-3) on Sunday, April 7.

With no conference matchups this past week, the Panther remain on top of the NESCAC West at a 2-1 conference record.

In its first matchup against Tufts, who rank second in the NESCAC East, Middlebury suffered a 4-3 loss in eight innings.

According to senior catcher Phil Bernstein, the Panthers played great baseball all weekend, despite the loss.

"We were excited to play Tufts who is always a threat to win the NESCAC," Bernstein said. "Although we lost the first game in extra innings, we played really well and made not just the routine plays, but the championship level ones: outfielders throwing runners out at the plate, two-strike hits to knock in base runners, and pitching out of jams."

The Jumbos broke out with a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the second inning. The Panthers went scoreless until the third inning, and finally took a 3-2 lead in the top of the sixth when junior shortstop Brooks Carroll was walked with one out. Sophomore designated hitter Jake Dianno reached base on a single. Both stole bases to get into scoring position and senior right-fielder Sam Graf singled down right field to score two runs. With his 38th career stolen base, Carroll moved into third place in program history.

With the game tied up in the bottom of the sixth, the Jumbos closed out the opener with a sac-fly in the bottom of the eight.

Senior pitcher Colby Morris tossed six innings for the Panthers, only allowing three earned runs with four strikeouts.

"It's always tough to lose a game where you play that well, but we responded in the second game by putting a lot of runs on the scoreboard and maintaining our lead throughout the game," Bernstein said.

In the second game of the double-header, Middlebury went up 4-0 by scoring in each of the first three innings. Junior third baseman Hayden Smith began the lead with a single to drive in a run, Bernstein added an RBI single in the second, and sophomore center fielder Henry Stremecki hit a homerun in the third.

The Panthers added insurance with another run in the ninth with a walk to Stremecki, who stole base twice. Stremecki was eventually brought home on a sacrifice fly by Smith.

Junior pitcher Andrew Martinson relieved senior Conor Himstead to strike out one in one inning of work to earn the win, setting up sophomore Bobby Sullivan for his first career save with one punchout of his own.

With a quick turnaround after the doubleheader with Tufts, the Panthers were back on the field hours later for its first home game of the season. According to Bernstein, head coach Mike Leonard stressed the importance of winning their weekends and the team was hungry for a third win.

"We came out loose for our first home game of the season and backed it up with stellar pitching performances and by hitting the ball all over the yard," Bernstein said. "We put big numbers on the scoreboard and expanded that lead every inning. It was good to end the weekend on that high note."

In the 15-6 victory, Bernstein finished 3-for-4 with three doubles and three RBIs. Carroll reached base twice and scored two runs; junior first baseman Alad Guild and junior designated hitter Kevin Woodring each went two-for-two.

Sophomore pitcher Michael Farinelli received the win after hurling a strong six innings, surrendering one earned run with eight strikeouts. Coming off Tommy-John surgery in his first game back, junior pitcher Spencer Shores relieved Farinelli, throwing a scoreless seventh inning.

The Panthers will face Northern Vermont University (7-15, 2-2) at 4 p.m. on Wed., April 10 at home, and Williams College (13-3, 1-2) in a NESCAC West three-game series starting at 4 pm. on Friday, April 12.

"Going into our weekend with Williams, we're trying to play the same brand of baseball we've played all season," Bernstein said. "We're going to be aggressive in every facet of the game and take advantage of their mistakes. We have an extremely talented group of guys so if we can just continue to play loose and trust our preparation, I think some good things will be in store for us."

Women's Lacrosse Continues Winning Streak, Defeating MIT 20-2

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Hope Robertson '22 scored her first Middlebury career goal against Colby on April 6.

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Against MIT, Erica Barr '22 put in two goals, leading the Panthers to a 20-2 win on April 4.

By BENJY RENTON
Senior Sports Editor

Fresh out of three wins over spring break, the Middlebury women's lacrosse team has not looked back, securing two more wins this week as they head into the second half of the season. With a dominating 9-1 record, the team has continued to develop their skills and competitive edge.

Over spring break, the Panthers journeyed to Maine, Maryland and Pennsylvania, playing against nationally-ranked teams: Bowdoin (ranked 14th), Salisbury (ranked fourth) and York (ranked eighth). The team swept all three games. Against Bowdoin, five goals scored by Jane Earley '22 in the first half lifted the Panthers past the Polar Bears, with a score of 21-18. Goalies Julia Keith '20 and Kate Furber '19 closed out the game with three saves each. Emily Barnard '20, Emma McDonagh '19 and Casey O'Neill '19 were also among the game's top scorers. Against Salisbury, after rounding out the first half 6-5, Barnard's three tallies in the second half pushed the team to a 11-6 win. York brought the heat, but the Panthers rose to the occasion and narrowly defeated the Spartans 7-6. Keith earned a whopping 11 saves, a career high for the junior. The match against York harkened back to the NCAA quarterfinals last season, where Middlebury triumphed 11-10. Returning to campus at the end of break for alumni weekend, the team edged Amherst by two, 11-9. After wrapping up the first period 6-4, the Panthers got down to business. Jenna McNicholas '19 and Barnard's three back-to-back goals allowed the Panthers to top the Mammoths, who were able to close the scoring gap towards the second half.

Senior captain Sara DiCenso commented on the team's success over spring break. "We learned that we can be dangerous against teams that play both man and backer defense," she said. "Also, we really honed our defense throughout the week and came up with some amazing stops in each game." However, the team will continue to build on certain skills in their road to NCAAs. "We were happy with our performance but know there is always room to improve, especially when it comes to raising our shooting percentage and turning the ball over fewer times," she said.

At a home game against MIT last Thursday, the Panthers swept their opponents 20-2, scoring 13 goals in a row in the first half. Lily Riseberg '22 quickly put the team on the board with an unassisted goal 22 seconds after the first whistle. Bringing out many players on the team's first-year squad, Erica Barr '22 scored the first two goals of her Middlebury career and Madeline Riordan '22 added another four to her tally. Sophie MacKeigan '22 collected three ground balls.

The Panthers hit the road this past weekend for a NESCAC match against Colby. Scoring eight goals in the first half, including four by Erin Nicholas '21, the Panthers defeated the Mules 14-5. Earley increased their total by four, while Hope Robertson '22 netted her first goal.

The team will face a doubleheader this weekend after playing Plymouth State, competing against Trinity and Hamilton on the road.